

# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

Grassroots Conservation in Action

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The  
Prairie  
Enthusiasts



## Nature's toolbox - Citizen Science

By David Cordray

It's one of those rare August days with low humidity and a cool breeze blowing from the north. I'm driving up a narrow, paved driveway lined on both sides with Colorado blue spruce to meet a new client interested in adding prairie. After a considerable distance, the rows of spruce end, giving way to an expansive yard. The vista is commanding - a series of undulating hills covered in big bluestem grass. The cloud-filtered sun pulls out the purple hue of the grass flowers and the wind gives it life as synchronized waves dance over the hills. Purple mountain majesty, I think.

"Hello." I turn and greet the landowner. "I see you found our place okay."

"Yes," I say, "and what a beautiful view."

I watch the positive expression melt from his face. He turns away, now facing the fields of big bluestem grass, makes a broad sweeping gesture with his right arm and says: "We want all this tall grass to be shorter and filled with colorful flowers."

When it comes to planting or reconstructing a prairie, it's an elusive event when landowner expectations match with the results. Too much grass is a common perceived problem. To avoid dense grass, prairies are often planted with little grass and quickly end up being dominated with Canada goldenrod or some other fast-moving rhizomatous forb species.

To deal with an "unbalanced" prairie, practitioners have developed a variety of methods to manipulate diversity into plant communities. Essentially, all the methods create a disturbance to weaken the dominant species followed by inter-seeding species that are not currently represented. We want whatever we do to be sustainable and to continue to become more diverse with the passage of time.

I have always been most interested in how plant species interact with each other. How plant A keeps plant B in balance, freeing up niche space for plant species X, Y and Z.

Wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) is a powerful tool from nature's toolbox for creating more plant diversity. For background on wood betony, see July 4, 2017, blog post "Pathway to Diversity," ([www.environmentalreturn.com/single-post/2017/07/04/Pathway-to-Diversity](http://www.environmentalreturn.com/single-post/2017/07/04/Pathway-to-Diversity)). I have struggled for years to establish wood betony in super-thick stands of planted warm-season grasses such as Indian grass and big bluestem. However, I now have a system that I have used over several years and in dozens of plots that has been 100% successful in establishing wood betony (from seed I collected) in dense stands of tall warm-season grasses and rhizomatous forbs such as Canada goldenrod.

Continued on Page 4

## Our Mission

The Prairie Enthusiasts seek to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest through protection, management, restoration, and education. In doing so, we strive to work openly and cooperatively with private landowners and other private and public conservation groups.

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**Communications Coordinator** - Joe Rising  
**Bookkeeper** - Jerry Pedretti

## Editorial Volunteers

**Chippewa Savannas** - Joe Maurer  
*theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com*  
**Coulee Region** - Jim Rogala  
*jrogala58@gmail.com*  
**Empire-Sauk** - Cate Harrington  
*charrington@tnc.org*  
**Glacial Prairie** - Alice & Walter Mirk  
*wamcp70@charter.net*  
**Many Rivers** - Deanna Pomije  
*pomijelynn@hotmail.com*  
**Minnesota Driftless** - George Howe  
*howe93@acegroup.cc*  
**Northwest Illinois** - Rickie Rachuy  
*rr.lonetree@frontier.com*  
**Prairie Bluff** - Tom Mitchell  
*tnmitchell@tds.net*  
**Prairie Sands** - Ray Goehring  
*raygoe@yahoo.com*  
**Southwest Wisconsin** - Linda Lynch  
*wondrelfarms@mhtc.net*  
**St. Croix Valley** - Evanne Hunt  
*evanne.hunt@gmail.com*

**Prairie Promoter Editor** -  
Debra Noell  
*promoter@theprairieenthusiasts.org*

Cover Photo: "Fall Savanna" by Debra Noell



## Executive Director

Chris Kirkpatrick, Executive Director

Earlier this year, TPE switched our membership database and website host. It was a major undertaking but became a priority this year to provide greater support to chapter leaders. The new platform is called NationBuilder, and was chosen after an extensive search earlier this year by Prairie Bluff Chapter's Jerry Newman.

It not only combines our database and website, but also provides eNews capabilities. One of the best features is the database gives controlled user access to chapter leadership to access and edit chapter membership information, schedule events, and edit or update chapter web sites. This summer, we provided initial training to all chapters.

We also have the capability now for all chapters to send eNews to their chapter email contacts. With the new platform, the emails are kept up to date, and all chapters use the same system to communicate.

I wish to give special thanks to Evanne Hunt who has been instrumental in helping the staff set up the new system and has provided support to chapter leaders throughout the transition.

If you haven't been to [www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org) lately, take a look. You will find the format is similar, but one exciting feature is that you can directly and easily sign up for monthly giving at any membership level you choose. You can log in to your own membership account via <https://theprairieenthusiasts.nationbuilder.com/login> to update your contact information or link your Facebook or Twitter profiles with your TPE membership. TPE's Facebook page, and several of our chapter Facebook pages are also configured in the new database.

As we integrate our email and social media accounts, we can track membership interactions at the chapter and organizational levels. It will also help us focus on engaging and encouraging the public to become more involved with TPE through our social media accounts. The more we are able to encourage our social media followers to become email contacts and chapter volunteers, ultimately the more new members this brings into the organization. This provides more financial resources and volunteers for the chapters to carry out the mission in their local communities.

Social media, websites and eNews are just some of the ways we are engaging future generations of prairie enthusiasts to get out on the prairie and become the next generation of grassroots conservationists.

You can reach me at 608-638-1873 or [executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org).



# President's Message – Where does the money go?

Scott Fulton, President

For some time now, the TPE Board and staff have been wrestling with the seemingly obscure issue of how our organization allocates the money it receives. Our income is derived from a surprisingly large number of different sources – membership dues and donations, of course, but also grants, USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, land rental, sales of products such as seeds or the Parsnip Predator, fees for services provided such as burns and other land management work, and other sources as well. Each local TPE chapter has its own array of income sources and budget, as does Chapter Support - the central staff who provide services such as administration, communications, insurance and financial management for the entire organization.

Over the past several years, our income from all sources across the organization has been generally increasing, and has been more than our overall expenses, enabling us to build a very healthy cash reserve. However, the policies we have used for allocating various types of income received between the different Chapters and Chapter Support have given rise to some serious problems. During this period, the income allocated for Chapter Support under our old policies has actually been declining despite rising overall income, and Chapter Support has been running a continuing deficit despite serious efforts to tighten expenses. Meanwhile, chapters and members have expressed a continuing desire for more services. There have also been inequities in the allocation of membership and general donation income between chapters resulting from the old policies.

The Board realized last year that we needed to significantly revise our income allocation policies to maintain the financial health of the organization. This has been a complex and challenging undertaking to say the least! We

needed to develop a better mutual understanding of the relative roles and importance of both our local chapters and our larger organization. We reaffirmed our commitment to putting as much of our resources as possible – including money – in the hands of our local chapters to carry out the on-the-ground conservation work that is the heart of TPE's mission.

On the other hand, we also have developed a greater appreciation for the vital role our staff and central Chapter Support organization play in helping our chapters carry out their work. We need adequate capacity in this part of the organization as well in order to be fully effective. Early in this project, we agreed upon four primary objectives for our new income allocation policy:

- Raise and deploy the maximum amount of money possible for chapters to carry out our conservation mission.
- Fully fund the budgeted expenses of Chapter Support every year.
- Ensure that the allocation policy is simple, understandable and transparent to our donors and leadership.
- Ensure that we have a strong, unified fundraising process and message to our donors and funding agencies.

After over two years of research, discussion, careful thought and sometimes heated negotiation, we approved a new income allocation policy at our Sept. 21 Board meeting. The new policy is summarized in an article later in this issue. We believe that the new policy will provide TPE with a more sustainable financial future, balancing the needs of our local chapters and the larger organization. Please let us know what you think or if you have any questions or concerns ([president@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:president@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)).

## Welcome New Members

June 1 - Sept. 30, 2019

Karla & Josef Anderegg  
 Roger Anderson  
 Cheyanne Carlin  
 Wanona & Bill Ceisel  
 Suzanne Chapin & Marc Donalson  
 Greg Cochrane  
 Harlan & Sharon Englerth  
 Kelle Frymire  
 Jacob Grace

Richard & Margie Irland  
 Tom Jackson  
 Stephen Johnson  
 Amanda Langer  
 Kathleen LaPoint  
 Sara Michie  
 Justin Nooker  
 Steven Peters  
 Jerry & Sandy Peterson

Judith Remington  
 Lucky and Mary Rice  
 Jeannie Roberts & John Voegeli  
 Ellyn Satter  
 Gordon & Carol Schultz  
 Tom Janecek & Natalie Sudman  
 Patrick & Deborah Turski  
 Deanne G. White

Here's what to do: Collect seed or buy fresh seed. (Note: I have had very poor results with purchased seed.) Shortly after the seed is dry and falls freely from the dried flower stalks, I sow it into a plot of dense grass and mark each corner with a steel stake or other non-flammable material. Plot size is typically 5-feet wide by 10-feet long. The amount of seed I use is enough to fill the fleshy part of my cupped palm but not deep enough to spill out of the gaps between my fingers.

Burn the plot the following fall, winter or very early spring. Mark the top of the stakes with flagging tape so it can be found when the grass is tall. Mow the plot to 4 inches when the grass is 8 inches, several times during the growing season after the burn.

I keep the plot narrow so I can easily mow it with my brush or clearing saw without stepping on the seedlings. The seedlings will die if the grass is allowed to overtop them blocking all sunlight. The seedling density is important. Wood betony seedlings need to be cluster planted in dense grasses to be successful. All these little seedlings quickly latch on to the grass roots and working together weaken the grass very quickly. You will notice that mowing frequency will really slow down as the summer wears on and the betony plants increase in size.

That's it. No other follow up care is needed after the first growing season. The betony plants will keep the grass short and expand out from the original plot over time. Usually, after a couple of growing seasons, I start to introduce new species into the plots. Species I have successfully

introduced into wood betony plots include blue-eyed grass, partridge pea, cream and stiff gentian, shooting star, lead plant, prairie coreopsis, white and purple prairie clover and golden Alexander. I don't know all the species wood betony will or will not parasitize.

In some of my older plots, it appears that the wood betony weakens in the center (maybe from self-competition or severely weakened host plants) and forb species of all types quickly take advantage of the opportunity. In the spring, it looks like a donut of blooming betony plants with the "hole" filled with an assortment of other forbs. Outside of the donut ring is thick grass.

When introducing wood betony, choose your plots carefully. Avoid areas that have invasive species present that may be released from the thick grass competition by the wood betony. I have seen non-native hawkweeds quickly utilize the open space produced by wood betony.

One of my favorite early spring rituals is to inspect wood betony patches for queen bumble bees. The queen bees just love betony. It's an important food source for the queens as they rebuild their colonies after a long hibernation.

So, if you have too much grass or weedy goldenrod in your prairie, call on nature's tool box and give wood betony a try. Granted, due to seed availability, it's a slow-go approach, but it's sustainable and very low maintenance.

It's nature's way.

*This story first ran June 27 in "Ecologically Speaking." [www.environmentalreturn.com/single-post/2019/06/27/Natures-Tool-Box](http://www.environmentalreturn.com/single-post/2019/06/27/Natures-Tool-Box). Reprinted with permission.*



Photo 1

### Photo Gallery:

In all photos the wood betony is past flowering. It can be identified by the yellowish and spiky vertical seed pods.

(All photos by David Cordray)

#### Photo 1

The photo to the left shows a small patch of wood betony parasitizing tall goldenrod (tall leafy plant with whitish-red stem) and Indian grass.

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**Photo 2**

The photo on the left shows a three-year-old patch of wood betony parasitizing Canada goldenrod (leafy plant in upper third of photo) and Indian grass.

Photo 2



**Photo 3**

This photo shows an old patch of wood betony in what was once only Indian grass and big bluestem. Other forbs in this photo include rattlesnake master, golden Alexander, blue-eyed grass, showy goldenrod, rosinweed, prairie sunflower, spiderwort, white and purple prairie clover, partridge pea, stiff and cream gentian and white wild indigo.

Photo 3

Continued on Page 6

**Photo 4**

The photo on the right shows another older patch of wood betony. Note the weakened grass sod in the foreground. The scattered taller clumps of Indian grass have so far escaped wood betony's grip. While hard to see, this area is full of forbs including shooting star, prairie coreopsis, milkweed, golden Alexander, stiff gentian and blue-eyed grass. If you look closely, you can see the wall of Canada goldenrod, where the betony ends, along the upper edge of the photo.



Photo 4

**Photo 5**

This photo shows an older patch of wood betony in a dense area of big bluestem and Indian grasses. There are many species of forbs present that I introduced - shooting star, cream and stiff gentian, blue-eyed grass, golden Alexander, white wild indigo, rosinweed, and showy and stiff goldenrod. This patch of wood betony has grown to roughly 50-by-60 feet. The original plot can be seen in the center of the photo where all the tall yellow flowers (golden Alexander) are. The wood betony plants in the original plot are now very small and no longer flowering, and there appears to be no grasses. The entire area is now ripe for more forb species introductions.



Photo 5



## Editor's Notes

Debra Noell, Editor

In the three years I've volunteered as Editor of *The Prairie Promoter*, I've heard many stories about life on, in and around the prairie. It's interesting, fascinating and sometimes, frustrating.

Sharing passion for tallgrass prairies and savannas makes us a small and unique club.

We need each other – and we need your voice to spice up the mix. Profile a fellow enthusiasts or write your own reflection on a prairie experience.

Remember reading about Tom & Kathie Brock? Wasn't their story both educational and inspiring? How about today's citizen science insights provided by David Cordray (*Nature's Toolbox* – cover story)? Have you ever tried such an experiment? What happened?

Then there's MJ Hatfield and her near obsession with insects. I know my eyes scan the undersides of leaves much more carefully after reading her stories and seeing her pictures.

Imagine, if you can, that you are Editor of the *Promoter*. What do you want to read? From whom do you want to hear? Ask yourself why some chapters don't submit anything for their Chapter News; I don't believe it's because they're doing nothing. I think it's because they don't realize they have something to say.

As with any beautiful prairie, we need diversity.

We need to broaden our knowledge of each other and prairies – so send your story to the editorial representative for your chapter (see inside cover page) or send it directly to me at [promoter@theprairieenthusiasts.com](mailto:promoter@theprairieenthusiasts.com)

I can't wait to read it.

## Field Guide to the Flower Flies – Book Review

By MJ Hatfield

This book covers all 413 known syrphid (flower fly) species that occur north of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri, west to include Iowa, Minnesota, Ontario and Nunavut, and east to the Atlantic Ocean. Although I don't claim to have read the whole book, it has some great insights, and I always appreciate it when the Midwest is included.

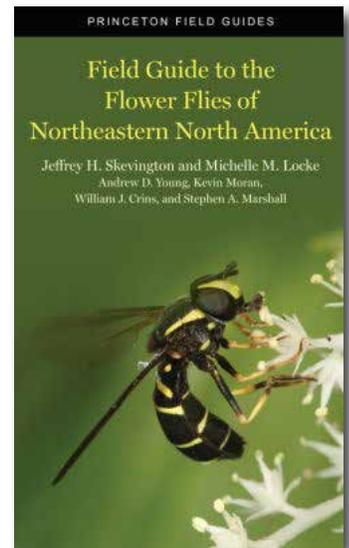
Love the coined common name sedgesitter and the book's symbols as to whether the fly can be identified by sight, hand lens or microscope.

From the book:

**To find a good diversity of syrphids, you thus need to find meadows dominated by native plants. Wet meadows, prairies, and savanna typically fill this role.**

*“Contrast between Europe and North America - Disturbed areas (weedy meadows) in North America can be rich in flowers but almost devoid of syrphids. This is in stark contrast to Europe, where similar-looking meadows are literally teeming with syrphids. Flower flies are often the most abundant, conspicuous, and diverse inhabitants of meadows in Europe. People used to hunting for syrphids in Europe will be shocked at how outwardly similar habitats here contain only a few common flower fly species.”*

*We assume that this is because disturbed meadows here are dominated by nonnative plants (in fact, they look so much like European meadows because the floral diversity is so similar). To find a good diversity of syrphids, you thus need to find meadows dominated by native plants. Wet meadows, prairies, and savanna typically fill this role. Unfortunately, the latter two habitats have been decimated in North America and are now among the most endangered ecosystems that we have. For examples of these systems, look at Cook County Forest Preserves (Illinois), Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (Iowa), Oak Openings Preserve Metropark (Ohio) or Pinery Provincial Park (Ontario).”*



*Field Guide to the Flower Flies of Northeastern North America* by Jeffrey H. Skevington and Michelle M. Locke, Andrew D. Young, Kevin Moran, William J. Crins, and Stephen A. Marshall

# Bold & beautiful beckons *The Backyard Bestiary*

By Chuck Wemstrom

The Holidays will be here any minute, and burden or bravery, it's time to do our shopping. Because you often see my book reviews in the newsletter, you know I believe a book is by far the best present, and this year, I'm recommending something old: *The Backyard Bestiary*, by Ton De Joode and Antonie Stolk with illustrations by Kees De Kieft.

I discovered this book because some of the stories I read in the now defunct *Country Journal* magazine.

Many of us remember *Country Journal* because we were working and living in a stifling metropolis, commuting to work and dreaming about moving to the country, or we lived in the country and we loved the monthly magazine because it was a do-it-yourself manual for farming/gardening, animal husbandry, and all the life skills that one didn't learn in school. It vicariously connected the reader with others forging ahead on a new path to sustainable living.

A big mistake—I didn't keep my old copies.

You'll love *The Backyard Bestiary*. Yes, another coffee-table-sized book. The 175 pages are jammed with hundreds of De Kieft's beautiful paintings. Most species are wild, but there are a handful or two of domestic animals. And all 75 creatures live nearby. You'll love the paintings and be pleased with the interesting tidbits that you'll discover about each and every creature.

My neighbor raises ducks. Also, every spring and fall I can watch wild ducks migrating up and down the Mississippi River. Both species bring joy. The story of the Canary Island canary, transported to Europe, is fascinating. Who knew about breeding so many different varieties of canaries?

The Norway rat, I learned, is not from Norway but came to the New World during the Revolutionary War on ships filled with British mercenaries, and the black rat came to Jamestown with the early colonists. One story defends the rock dove and you'll be glad you read it. But the wren's story will only reinforce your disdain for the bluebird's enemy.

And then there's a painting of a ladybug who has just laid her eggs on a rose bush—beautiful.

I love life's coincidences. The authors write about a multi-million ladybug infestation in London, England in 1869 and later one numbering in the billions in Alexandria, Egypt. This spring, there was a swarm called "a loveliness of ladybugs" in California. This swarm was so large that it was picked up on the meteorologist's radar.

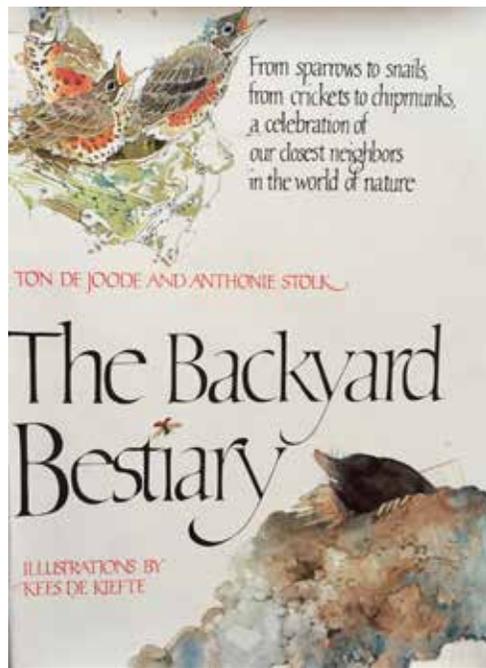
I tend to ignore insects except for bees, dragonflies and butterflies, but as the book reminds me, they can be interesting, including the earwig, the flea, two kinds of lice, the wasp, two different beetles, the tick and the mosquito.

Maybe there are more green herons than great blues, but the great blue is still one of my favorites and

De Kieft's painting is a keeper.

We're not happy when we see a rabbit come hopping out of our garden, but we love to see the fox chase a rabbit through our prairie.

This is definitely a book to dip in and out of and to share with your grandchildren. If you already have an old copy tucked away in a bookcase, get it down and enjoy it. Used copies are so cheap you can buy a half dozen or more for gifts.



## Prairie Promoter Remembered

Elizabeth "Ann" Woldt, 72, of Mt. Morris, Wis., died early Tuesday, Sept. 17, in hospice at ThedaCare Hospital in Berlin, Wis.

Ann, as she was known, was born Feb. 7, 1947, in Park Ridge, Ill., daughter of Thomas O. Mehan and Laura M. Sheffield. Ann married Ralph J. Woldt on June 1, 1968, in Park Ridge, following their courtship that began at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis. Her majors were in English and education, but her exposure to the liberal arts opened doors for her as librarian in the Oshkosh Public Library, as chairperson for the Milwaukee League of Women Voters, as an Advocate for Disabled People in Georgia and Wisconsin.

She lived with multiple sclerosis for 38 years and though confined to a wheelchair, her strength and determination

kept her active in various organizations. Ann was instrumental in founding TPE's Prairie Sands Chapter. She served as their second president and as the chapter's representative on TPE's Board of Directors.

She loved her cats, and built and designed her own cat village of miniature houses, writing a saga identifying each cat owner and residence. Ann is survived by her spouse Ralph, brother John, and many extended family members. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother the Rev. James Mehan. An online memorial service will be announced at a future date.



# New income allocation policy for TPE

By Scott Fulton, President

As explained in the President's Message on page 3, TPE's Board of Directors has recently approved a new policy for allocating and distributing income received from all sources across the organization between our local chapters and the central Chapter Support organization. Some of the objectives in developing the new policy were to make our procedures as simple as possible, understandable and transparent to our members, donors and funding agencies, as well as the leadership of the organization at all levels, and publishing the policy is part of that process.

## The new policy is as follows:

1. All income from any source will be attributed at the time it is received either to a specific chapter or to Chapter Support. Income derived from membership dues or general donations (such as from the Annual Appeal) will be attributed to the chapter of which the donor is a member, to a different chapter or Chapter Support if the donor specifies, or to Chapter Support if the donor is not a member of a specific chapter.
2. All income attributed to Chapter Support will be used to cover its expenses.
3. Any remaining Chapter Support expenses not covered by income attributed to it will be covered by "overhead fees" applied to income attributed to chapters. The overhead fees applied to different classes of income are as follows:
  - a. 5% fixed fee on non-grant income for land protection projects. Land protection grants (such as from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund) generally would be exempt from this fee, unless they allow for administrative overhead.
  - b. 10% fixed fee on all other income not derived from memberships or general donations. These income classes include restricted donations for specific projects or land management, grants, USDA payments, land rental, fee-for-services, events, and product sales. Shipping charges for product sales are exempt from this fee, as is income from the annual conference and raffle/auction.
  - c. A variable % fee on income from memberships or general donations attributed to chapters. The variable fee is calculated to just cover any remaining Chapter Support expenses not covered by Chapter Support-attributed income plus the fixed overhead fees. In 2018 this variable fee would have been 61%.
4. All income attributed to a specific chapter after the overhead fees are taken out is available to the chapter. One challenge with the implementation of this policy is that the correct final value of the variable % fee on memberships or general donations is not known until the end of the year, when we have a full tally of all income and Chapter Support expenses. In order to put income to work as soon as possible, the variable % calculated from the prior fiscal year will initially be used. After we have a financial statement for the year, a final variable % for the year will be calculated and a positive or negative adjustment will be made to each chapter's cash balance to cover any change.

We will begin implementing this new policy in 2020, starting with the budgeting process set to begin soon. At the end of each year, the Finance Committee and Board will review the policy against our objectives and make any adjustments needed to improve the results or solve problems that arise.

## Mark your calendar – March 20 & 21 Day of Insects

Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

### Friday, March 20, 2020

- Afternoon workshops on invertebrate-related topics
- Dinner and speaker

### Saturday, March 21, 2020

- Day of Insects brings together professionals, academics, advocates and enthusiasts of all levels from across the country to explore and celebrate entomology (the study of insects). Topics often include insects native to Iowa, exotic insects, endangered insects, conservation efforts and new educational programs aimed at advancing the appreciation of all invertebrates.

# Nick Faessler awarded

By Rob Baller

Nick Faessler of rural Juda, Wis., was recently unanimously recognized by the Prairie Bluff Chapter for his perpetual TPE volunteerism.



Nick and Linda Faessler receiving awards. (Photo by Ralph Henry)

The recognition came at the annual Chapter picnic, July 2, 2019 at the customary location, the home of Nick and Linda Faessler. First order of business was the traditional visit to a nearby 6-acre dry-mesic prairie remnant in northern Ill., a remote station that could be described as

an ocean of corn surrounding a drop of prairie. Thanks to years of stewardship by the Faessler brothers, not to mention friendship between Nick and the land's owners Dick and Joanne Meinert, the Meinerts donated the remnant to TPE in 2019.

After the picnic, which was interrupted by a vigorous but short-lived storm that chased most of us into the house and garage, the award was presented to a stunned Nick, who graciously accepted his certificate of recognition while about 20 respectful conspirators applauded. The certificate was



Nick Faessler at the picnic, after the storm. (Photo by Rob Baller)

randomly signed by numerous friends and Chapter members, including 101-year old George Barry, one of the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts original cast. Nick also received a beautiful original oil painting gladly donated for the occasion by noted wildlife artist (and long-time Prairie Bluffer) Jonathan Wilde, and he received a ceremonious wall hanging quilt donated by Elaine Klassey.

Among the TPE contributions Nick made through the years leading up to the award include the free use of his metal barn in Green County for storing the Chapter's prescribed burn truck, water tanks, torches, flappers, herbicide equipment, etc., and Nick's willingness to repair almost any of those tools. His barn also serves as the headquarters for the annual burn refresher, and for part-manufacturing the Parsnip Predator, a narrow specialty shovel sold by the Prairie Bluff chapter for at least 12 years.

Nick has been one of the most essential individuals to the mass production and distribution of the Predator since its inception. He has been known to mow and herbicide countless acres on behalf of prairie recovery. He served 15 years representing the Prairie Bluff Chapter on the TPE board, and the Finance Committee. Nick was involved in negotiating the recent "Foslin" addition to Avon Ridge Prairie in Rock County (see article Page 11). All hats off to Nick Faessler!



Storm approaching Meinert Prairie at the annual picnic this summer. (Photo by Rob Baller)

# Foslin addition to Avon Ridge Prairie

By Rob Baller

In 2015, the first parcel was acquired for the Avon Ridge Prairie in the Town of Avon, Rock County, Wis., and this summer, more was added.

Avon Ridge Prairie began as a 16.4-acre purchase from Robert Billimack that included a single acre of ungrazed dry prairie remnant studded with purple coneflowers on the south-facing ridge of a hill. The buy came with a half-mile lane from Beloit-Newark Road (County Road Q) at the north, plus a few acres of wooded land, and some former farmland already planted to CRP prairie grass.

On Aug. 25, 2019, a beautiful late summer afternoon, about two dozen admirers converged to celebrate a second parcel just added to the reserve. This 5.927-acre 'Foslin's Bluff' includes a retired hill pasture dazzling with remnant dry prairie, adjacent to the first parcel through a spindly barbed-wire fence. It was sold to TPE by Doug and Kathy Foslin, retired farmers who live close to the bluff.

The bluff has been burned a couple of times the last

few decades by local conservationists. Applied Ecological Services (AES), which is headquartered a few miles away, occasionally collected seed there. But the hill has not been pastured for decades.

Funds for the \$22,691.94 addition came half from a

Knowles-Nelson (Wisconsin) Stewardship Grant, and half from donations to TPE's Prairie Bluff Chapter, including \$1,000 from the Rock County Conservationists. The sale to TPE is a land contract, and sale becomes final when WI-DNR Stewardship money is delivered in the coming months.

Access to Avon Ridge will continue via a small parking lot along the lane on Beloit-Newark Road (CR Q). At the dedication, Nick Faessler led a field tour and

answered questions about the addition. Later, as guests enjoyed cheese, crackers, drinks, and conversation, Executive Director Chris Kirkpatrick and President Scott Fulton made reverential speeches. Guests of honor Doug and Kathy Foslin, who sold the bluff, both expressed gratitude to TPE for conserving the site, and lauded Kirkpatrick for his agreeable manner during the sale.

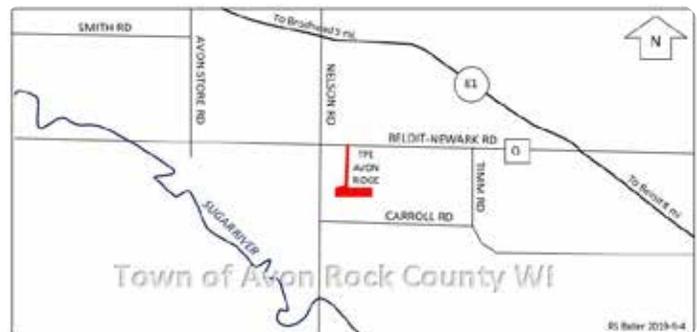
The Prairie Bluff Chapter would like to express profound thanks to all who donated for this addition in what seemed to us record time. THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS ALL!



Prairie admirers with bur oak and native sunflowers on the initial unit of Avon Ridge Prairie. (Photo by Jean Azmuth)

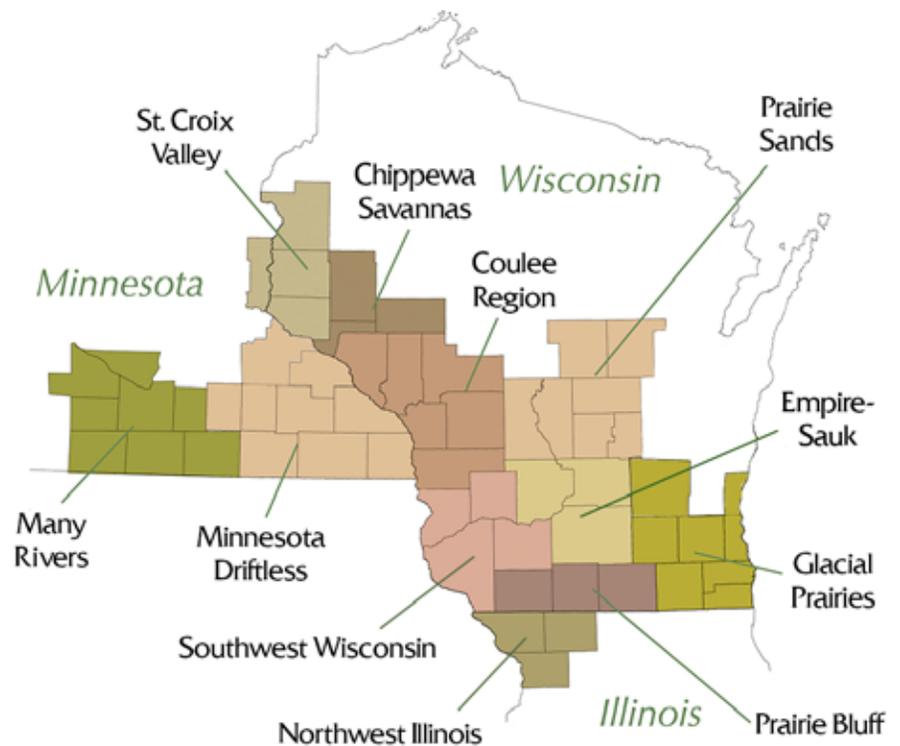


Nick Faessler (right) guides the tour at Avon Ridge. Guests of honor Doug and Kathy Foslin are at the far left. (Photo by Rob Baller)



Location of TPE's new Foslin addition at Avon Ridge.

# Chapter Updates



## Coulee Region

Jim Rogala

### Coulee Botany Club built skills this summer

Several of us from the Coulee Region Chapter had a conversation at last year's TPE Conference about getting up to speed on plant identification. While formal field trips offer some opportunities for such knowledge sharing, typically hike leaders don't want to stop to discuss the intricate details of plant identification with a larger group that includes only a few that are interested. An idea was offered up by Melinda Knutson that we could notify each other when we are going out to specifically look at prairie plants. Her motivation was to become more knowledgeable for her consulting business, while others of us wanted to advance beyond being novices. Even others desired to tackle some more challenging species like the panic grasses and sedges. From that idea, our "Botany Club" was formed.

Ten would-be botanists got on the email list to be notified of hikes. We had five "club" hikes, but also took advantage of several other scheduled field trips to advance our skills. Much of our time was spent reviewing common prairie plants, although we encountered a few uncommon species that hopefully we all can continue to look for on other sites. We often looked at species we tend to overlook, such as weedier native species like some goldenrods and asters. We made a point of trying to use scientific names and use botanical terms that are commonly used for plant identification and plant function. Hopefully, we all made some progress in advancing our skills.

In today's world of easily accessible information on the internet, perhaps our club isn't needed. However, aside from the advantage of learning from one another in the field, the hikes provided another reason to meet socially. In addition to botanizing on these hikes, we often had conversations on land management techniques and the usual related topics common among conservation-minded people. We plan to try this again next summer, when two more of us will be retired and have more time to play!



A few members of our new "Botany Club" take some time to botanize during Armund Bartz' butterfly hike. (Photo by Connie Weedman)

Karen Agee

## Regal fritillaries & TPE on Public Radio

Regal fritillaries, TPE and our Mounds View Grassland project were featured in a Sept. 18 story on Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR).

WPR's project "WHYsconsin" takes questions submitted by listeners, then WPR reporters research answers and respond to the question with an on-air story. TPE volunteer Rachel Potter asked the question: "Why don't more Wisconsinites know about the majestic Regal Fritillary butterfly?"

WPR's Mary Kate McCoy went butterfly hunting with TPE's Rich Henderson at Mounds View Grassland to get the answer. "It's majestic, it's charismatic, and it's one of Wisconsin's severely threatened butterflies," McCoy reports in the story. So why don't more of our state residents know about it? Read the article online or listen to the 4-minute broadcast at: [www.wpr.org/regal-fritillary-danger-going-extinct-why-havent-more-people-heard-it](http://www.wpr.org/regal-fritillary-danger-going-extinct-why-havent-more-people-heard-it)

The link to the article and audio also is posted on the E-S chapter through TPE's website [www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org). Have a prairie-related question? Don't be shy! Submit your question to [wpr.org/WHYsconsin](http://wpr.org/WHYsconsin) and help showcase your chapter's great work.



Regal fritillary (Photo by Eric Preston)

## Celebrate winter solstice

Mark the longest night of the year with prairie friends, food and fire at the E-S annual Solstice gathering.

One year the landscape was covered in deep snow with a hard crust on top, and the valley sparkled in the moonlight. Another year was dark, drizzly and damp. Whatever the weather, the fire is always warm and bright! This year the skies will be dark going into the new moon, and if it's clear, we will have a good chance to see all the stars sparkling on the longest night of the year. And we may hear the coyotes and owls calling!

Brats and soft drinks will be provided. Food or drinks to share are encouraged. Food items not requiring precise manual dexterity is a good idea!



Wisconsin Master Naturalist class of 2019 with their instructors. (Photo by Karen Agee)

5:30 – 8 p.m. Dec. 21 just west of the Reilly Road barn

**Directions:** 8624 Reilly Rd, Barneveld, Wis. From Hwy 18/151 at Blue Mounds, take County Road (CR) F south 5 miles. (Note that a mile south of 18/151, CR F takes a right, follow CR F.) Then turn right on Reilly Road, which ends at the barn. Park at the barn and along the road.

Call or email if you have questions – 608.845.7065, tpe.rhenderson@tds.net. Event will take place “snow or shine.”

## Election of chapter officers

At our annual picnic and membership meeting July 16, about 25 chapter members shared some great food and elected a new chapter chair and secretary.

New chair is Willis Brown (willisbrown55@gmail.com) and the new secretary is Amy Dubruiel (amy.dubruiel@gmail.com). Continuing as vice-chair is Rich Henderson and as treasurer, Kathy Henderson.

Out-going chapter chair Karen Agee will remain a member of the chapter executive committee for two years. Henderson continues as the Empire-Sauk chapter representative on TPE's Board of Directors.

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## Northwest Illinois

Pam Richards

### Hey prairie people!

Last summer a variety of prairies were discovered at Lake Carroll - a four-season recreational community between Lanark and Pearl City, Ill. Carroll County is the southern-most region of the TPE-monitored areas. These finds included a remnant, a planted prairie, and golf course prairies. Both the remnant and planted prairies were featured in two local news mediums.

Becky Janopoulos, along with Jim and Pam Richards, Lake Carroll residents and Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts (NIPE) members, noticed eight acres of prairie remnant on both sides of an established ATV trail where Jim Richards found a unique plant later identified by Jim Rachuy as the short green milkweed with a conservation value of 10 (Wilhelm & Rericha, 2017).

In the fall, Jim and Rickie Rachuy planted the seed from the one green milkweed pod in their rare species garden and grew 24 seedlings. Then Duane Ambroz, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) heritage biologist, visited this remnant twice and determined it to be a grade three abandoned pasture/gravel hill remnant prairie. He found two types of *Spiranthes* orchids or lady's tresses during his visits and since then, we have identified 30 grasses and forbs at that location.

At the same time, we investigated another seven-acre prairie along Lake Carroll Boulevard. This mesic-dry prairie was planted in 1989 by IDNR, Pheasants Forever, and the Lake Association. Since then, we have found a second unit

## Master naturalists return

Grace Vosen

This spring, Schurch-Thomson Prairie was host to our fourth annual Wisconsin Master Naturalist (WIMN) training. Twelve students signed up to take the class and explore our state's native landscapes.

The WIMN program is a collaboration between UW-Extension and nonprofit groups. Students learn about Wisconsin's natural history, hear from volunteers in conservation and present a report on an individual project. For our course, we used Schurch-Thomson as a home base and taught each subject through the lens of prairie ecology. We had numerous guest instructors and field trips to bring our topics to life.

Students in the “Class of 2019” ranged from recent graduates to retirees. They had a variety of conservation- and sustainability-related interests. Five members of our chapter took turns as instructors, four of them for the first time. They were Rob Baller, Diane Hills, Scott Sauer, Pat Trochlell and myself. Thank you to the great guest instructors, and special thanks to Karen Agee and Rich Henderson for providing support throughout.



L-R: Lake Carroll Prairie Club members Alice Hagemann, Barb Anderson, Tom Young and Becky Janopoulos prey on wild parsnip. (Photo by Pam Richards)

separated by a woodland. These have not been managed, and we wanted to recognize and protect them, so prairie signs were posted. Here we have documented 35 forb and grass species so far, and will continue to catalog plants, butterflies and other insect species.

If that was not enough work for us, a golfer escorted us around the 18-hole course where we found six planted mini-prairies. It was exciting to see how great they looked after 30 years and will hopefully provide an additional seed bank opportunity for us.

We formed a Lake Carroll Prairie Club in September 2018 to recruit Lake Members' help. Our mission statement is “To preserve and maintain the prairies and woodlands of Lake Carroll to improve the quality of the community's ecosys-



Short green milkweed, a rare find along an ATV trail. (Photo by Pam Richards)

tem.” We currently have 35 members and hold monthly meetings and write Lake newsletter articles to educate the community on the benefits and beauty of these prairies. We post the emerging forbs or insect discoveries along with an educational text on the Lake’s Facebook page.

Topics have ranged from the definition and benefits of prairies, woodland management, eradication of invasive species, prairie plant varieties, wildlife, prairie burns and rain gardens. We even planted our own rain garden to prove how, in a one-inch rainfall,

just two downspouts spilling out 600 gallons of water can dissipate within a couple of hours. This was featured on a garden walk here. We have been working on all these sites



Lake Carroll Boulevard (LCB) Prairie. (Photo by Pam Richards)

eradicating invasives, burning and collecting seeds.

## But wait, there’s more

The Prairie Club and Lake Manager Joe Rush proposed and received approval to plant an acre parcel called the Edgewater Planting. We want to showcase this prairie by planting annuals followed by a variety of prairie plants in a structured arrangement! We are also experimenting with prairie planting in a campground area where trees fell and were removed.

Rush also encouraged us to join the Watershed Plan Committee, which works to obtain matching federal grant monies for the East Fork Creek watershed, surrounding local farmers and the Lake Carroll Association. This has been a great learning experience, and we are passing on information about the effects of polluted run-off on streams, lakes and rivers including the Mississippi.

Of course, the three of us are dedicated workers for the NIPE group in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties as well and have been grateful for the mentoring from the NIPE board and staff. If you’re down in the Carroll County area—stop by—we’ll show you around and put you to work!



Prairie Club members L-R: Tom Meyer, Becky Janopoulos, Barb Anderson, Marti Meyer, Pam Richards and Tom Young.

# Prairie Sands

David Hamel

## Central Wisconsin invasives partnership

Shelley and David Hamel, Marten Schultz and Cathy Franks attended an all-day event Sept. 28 at Prairie Sands Chapter member Dick Hanson's home and acres of prairie/savanna near Mt. Morris (Waushara County), Wis.

Professional staff from Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) presented a classroom session on identification of Wisconsin's most threatening invasive plants. Then there was a thorough briefing on the use of the cell phone application GLEDN and website EDDMapS that are in use by citizen scientists to report the location of new outbreaks of many invasive species.

After a catered lunch, Hanson guided a tour of his family acreage on the shores of Porters Lake where buckthorn has become a serious threat to the native oak savanna. The good news of the day was the spectacular 17-acre tall grass prairie that Hanson has created from an old farm field.

## Prescribed burn training again this October

Ray Goehring

For the third year, Jeb Barzen of Private Lands Conservation taught prescribed burn training for our chapter on Oct. 26 and 27. Several Prairie Sands Chapter members completed either the beginners training course or the more advanced leadership training. The classes were held at the home and prairie of Fred and Karen Wollenburg in Dalton, Wis.



Participants learn to both ignite fire and put out spot fires during prescribed burn training. (Photo by Karen Wollenburg)

## Holiday party & goodbye to a friend

Plans are in the works for the annual Prairie Sands Chapter Holiday Party and Seed Exchange. The date will be Dec. 3, but we're still discussing locations. There will be more details closer to the date posted on the Prairie Enthusiasts Website page, Facebook page or by contacting Ray at raygoe@yahoo.com.

And lastly, we are saddened by the news of the passing of chapter member Ann Woldt.

Ann was instrumental in the founding of The Prairie Sands Chapter of TPE, serving as our second president and as our representative on the TPE board of directors. She had to drop out of active participation years ago because of advancing MS symptoms and complications.

Condolences can be sent to her husband, Ralph, at M3765 Primrose Lane, Wautoma, Wis. 54982-7877



Dick Hansen addresses attendees of Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership event held on his prairie and savanna. (Photo by David Hamel)



Shelley Hamel presents a thank you plaque to the late Ann Woldt (on the left) for her service to the Prairie Sands chapter at a party to celebrate her life in 2014. (Photo by Ray Goehring)

# Southwest Chapter

Jack Kussmaul & Martha Querin-Schultz

While our volunteer base never seems sufficient, we tapped into a new source of workers this summer. Learning that the minimum-security prison in Prairie du Chien provides volunteers to work on governmental and non-profit sites, we took advantage of this for the first time this season to great success.

We had a crew of eight pulling and digging wild parsnip at Eldred Prairie. They were good workers and accomplished a lot. While there was a cost, it was minimal. We will try to schedule them for work again next year.

We hosted the all TPE picnic in July, the chapter picnic in August and are co-hosts of the TPE Prairie Conference Feb. 29 in Platteville. This means we've had more than work parties to occupy our volunteers' time.

A bit of adventure was provided at the all TPE picnic in July when we arrived to discover floodwaters from the Kickapoo River covering our planned party area. Thankfully, we were able to relocate to a site that was high and dry.

Things went smoother at the chapter picnic, hosted at the home of Martha and Steve Querin-Schultz, up the world's steepest driveway, in rural Gays Mills. We had an excellent turnout. Steve led us on a tour of the oak savanna he's restoring. This was followed by a colorful presentation of the world of prairie insects by Jim Schultz and then by a potluck dinner. The event was a real success.

Despite rain, there was an excellent turnout for a monarch butterfly tagging program on Sept. 19. Linda Lynch initiated



A group of future prairie enthusiasts learn about the importance of butterflies at a monarch tagging event in September. (Photo by Jack Kussmaul)

the event as well as hosting it at her farm near Ridgeway. Representatives from Monarch Watch and Madison Audubon presented a program on monarch population declines, life cycles and migration patterns. Monarchs are tagged with tiny tags with code numbers to trace migration. It's citizen science at its best. There were a number of children present who contributed energy to the group.

By the end of the program, the rain had ended, and the group walked through Linda's extensive gardens, designed for pollinators, in search of monarchs. Due to the poor weather conditions they were not present in the normal numbers, but the children had a great time chasing the ones we did find with their nets. Unfortunately, none were caught so none were tagged. Regardless, all present agreed that they had fun. Most took tags home to do some tagging on their own. It's an event worth repeating.



Sleepy Hollow Oak opening in August. (Photo by Jim Schultz)



Inmate work crew helps out at Eldred Prairie. (Photo by Jack Kussmaul)



Secret life of insects presentation. (Photo by Martha Querin-Schultz)

# St. Croix Valley

Evanne Hunt

## UW-River Falls students collect seed for TPE

For the fifth year, Dr. Eric Sanden and his Prairie Restoration class collected seed at Alexander Oak Savanna, the Foster Conservation Area and Blueberry Hill. The students did a wonderful job -- collecting many pounds of forb seeds. The seed will be cleaned and redistributed at those sites this winter. We typically hand broadcast the seed onto cleared areas after removing the buckthorn.



Students from UW-River Falls prairie restoration class collect seed for TPE. Unfortunately, names of the students are unknown. (Photos by Mike Miller)



## TPE members collect seed, too!

Thanks to our many volunteers, we collected seed from the end of August through October. Seed collected includes bergamot, flowering spurge, blazing-star, mountain mint, bottlebrush grass, ear-leaved brome and Virginia wild-rye. The seed was cleaned and will be distributed on remnants this winter.

Thank you to Alex Bouthilet, Brian Schils, Burt Levy, Carl Nelson, Dick Seebach, Evanne Hunt, Fred Steffen, Ginny Gaynor, Gladi Sippel, Jan Amberson, Jerry Peterson, Mary Roen, Michelle Harvey, Mike Miller and Wayne Huhnke.

## Winter Talks Scheduled

- **November 19** -- Eric Chien, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, has developed an oak savanna restoration assessment tool for the average landowner. The tool provides landowners, managers and stewards who are less experienced in oak savanna restoration with a method to determine the likelihood of success. It takes into account the type and level of restoration effort to be used. Chien's tool is based on data collected from 58 oak savanna restorations across four Midwestern states, including TPE's Alexander Oak Savanna property.
- **December 17** -- Emily Roberts, a member of the Minnesota Herpetological Society, talks about and shows us native reptiles and amphibians.
- **January 14** -- Kevin Juneau, UW-River Falls professor, describes the results of his insect survey in the Kinnickinnic watershed, including Foster Cemetery.
- **February** -- Gary Eldred, founding member and first president of TPE, offers his observations on how climate change will affect our prairies and oak savannas.



St. Croix Valley chapter volunteers show off their seed bounty. (Photo by Mike Miller)

# Thank You Donors

We thank the following who donated to TPE between June 1 - Sept. 30, 2019  
These gifts are beyond membership dues and are truly generous and appreciated.

## \$1000 or more

Fred Cruse  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for a  
prescribed burn  
Estate of Dorothy Gessert  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin Addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Roma Lenehan  
Compass Club donation in  
honor of Tom & Kathie Brock  
Susan Lindquist Family  
in memory of Robert Patrick  
Russell, Jr.  
Withdraw Meeker  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts in honor of Laura  
Dufford  
Alice & Walter Mirk Compass Club  
James & Rumi O'Brien  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter  
James & Rumi O'Brien  
Compass Club  
Jim & Diane Rogala  
Compass Club  
Jay (John) & Libby Rutherford to  
the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Penny & Gary Shackelford  
Compass Club  
Anonymous  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter for  
land management  
Doug Steege & Kris Euclide  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter for  
land management at the West  
Dane Conservancy  
Marc & Marilyn Thwaits  
Compass Club  
Kristin Westad  
Compass Club  
Topf Wells & Sally Probasco  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter for  
the Hanley Trust addition to  
Mounds View Grassland  
Gary Zamzow & Elizabeth Frawley  
Compass Club

## \$500 - \$999

David Kostka  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for a  
prescribed burn  
Jeannie Roberts & John Voegeli  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter  
ShopDriftless.Com  
Patrick & Deborah Turski

## \$100 - \$499

James & Marilyn Anderson  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Network For Good  
Gary & Barbara Bernard  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Wild Birds Unlimited of Galena to  
the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Pat & Dave Casper  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts

Roger Coulthard  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Sarah Crittenden & Alex Gemrich  
John & Kay Day  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Judy Decker  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Mary Dodd-Lieberman  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Althea Dotzour  
in honor of Jack Kusmaul  
Kathleen Massoth & M Bruce  
Edmonson  
Ronald & Sheila Endres  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter for  
Education  
Faessler Family  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter in  
memory of Ida Faessler  
Sophie Fiedler  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Richard & Lois Gordon  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Andrew Gulya  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Douglas & Carol Hancock  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Dick & Joan Harmet  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Dennis Harris  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Ralph & Deborah Henry  
for a prescribed burn  
Jeff & Sara Horn  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
William Howe  
in memory of Bob Russell  
Dean Husingh  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Vito & Kathryn Ippolito  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Becky Janopoulos  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Becky Kruse  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for a  
prescribed burn  
Jan Lavacek & Carole Sullivan to  
the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Christine Lawlor  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Ron & Micki Lubcke  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Richard Luthin  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Kevin Magee  
in memory of Susan Connell-  
Magee

Mark Maidak  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Laurie Mattas  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Randy & Melissa Nyboer  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Frances Peterson  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
William & Judy Reid  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Bryan Richards  
Paul & Linda Rode  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Bradley & Lynda Sleeper  
in memory of Robert Patrick  
Ressell Jr.  
Grace Storch  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Janice Vosberg  
in memory of my mom Patricia  
Feist and the Feist Prairie  
Robert & Judith Wehrle  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Kay Weibel & Steve Freeman  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Charles & Chris Wellington  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter, in  
memory of Ida Faessler  
Rip Yasinski  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts

## Under \$100

Barbara Alexander  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Network for Good  
John Arndt & Barbara Wiesen to  
the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Richard Benning  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Sharon & Kevin Cahill  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Brenda Calvert  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Tom Carroll  
Martin & Annelisa Cleary  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Candi Diaz  
Keith Rodli & Katharine  
Grant  
to the St Croix Valley  
Chapter  
Duane & Barb Johnson  
to the Northwest  
Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Joan M. Klaus  
to the Northwest  
Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts

Micah & Joanne Kloppenburg  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter  
William & Eloise Kuenzi  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter in  
honor of Nick & Linda Faessler's  
40th Wedding Anniversary  
Tom & Yolanda Lobacz  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Donald Mason & Crystal Boden-Mason  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
June Mathiowetz  
to the St Croix Valley Chapter  
Kathleen Milanich in memory of  
Robert Patrick Russell Jr.  
Alice & Walter Mirk  
gift renewal for Richard Bautz  
Alice & Walter Mirk gift renewal  
for Dale & Kim Karow  
Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
gift renewal for Jamie Dowdall  
Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts  
gift renewal for Roger  
Coulthard  
Deb Pausz  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Samuel Pflughoeft  
in honor of our niece, Finley's  
1st birthday  
Keith Relyea & Jeanne Kant  
Dan Rippeteau & Jeanne Siekowski  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Dick Seebach  
to the St Croix Valley Chapter  
Stephen Silberman  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Hugh & John Simon  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Mary Spaay  
M. Dian Strenska  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Lynne Strode  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Kenneth & Beverly Waller  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Victoria Wegner  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
Robyn Weiss  
to the Empire-Sauk Chapter  
Chuck & Pat Wemstrom  
to the Northwest Illinois Prairie

## Legacy Giving

Please consider The Prairie Enthusiasts in your will or estate plans. If you've already done so, please let us know, so we can thank you personally for ensuring future generations will have access to prairies and savannas. For more information please contact Chris Kirkpatrick, Executive Director at 608-638-1873 or [executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org).