Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

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ACTIVITY UPDATES

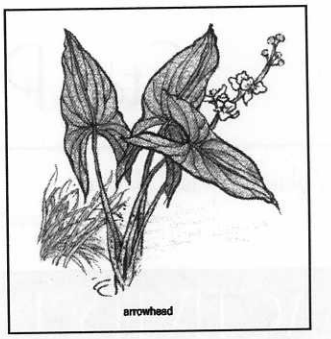
Cedar Bay Landing Complete

Thanks to a Department of Natural Resources Stewardship grant, St. Croix County sponsorship, matching funds from the Cedar Lake District and Town of Star Prairie, and many volunteer hours, the Cedar Bay Landing project is complete! A brand new parking lot and access drive greets visitors to Cedar Lake's south shore. The parking lot serves early and late season ice anglers who used to park along the county highway. It also serves visitors who use the wildlife-viewing platform constructed on the lake as part of the project. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust purchased the site with funds from the Town of Star Prairie's park development fund. The trust then worked with St. Croix County and the DNR to develop improvements on the site. The parking lot design incorporates a pretreatment and infiltration basin and buffer strip to minimize runoff to Cedar Lake.

McMurtrie Preserve Improvements

Improvements at the McMurtrie Preserve are aimed at creating better access for groups to use the facility. In the fall of 2007, a driveway and parking lot were constructed for the entrance at County Road M. Like most land trust projects, we had a lot of help. St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department staff designed the driveway, parking lot, and stormwater collection system and put together the bid package. Volunteers from the land trust and Star Prairie Fish and Game helped with clearing and installation. Major donors for the project include: Star Prairie Fish and Game and Phyllis and Bob Menke. Future improvements will provide shelter and bathrooms for preserve visitors. Jim Reimer, US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, is working on an interpretive guide to the preserve.

Educational Supplies Now Available



Teachers, students, and other visitors now have access to environmental education equipment for scientific testing and other outdoor activities. McMurtrie Preserve equipment includes hip waders, d-frame nets, water quality testing kits, and plant and animal identification books. Please contact Aleisha Miller (715-684-2874 aleisham@co.saint-croix.wi.us) if you are interested in an educational activity at the McMurtrie Preserve.

Youth Projects at McMurtrie

New Richmond High School students will be out in force to complete community service projects as part of their Service Learning Day, May 14th. Two student groups will help us out at our properties. One homeroom will complete plantings for the parking lot infiltration pond at the McMurtrie Preserve. Alternative school students will help out at the McMurtrie Perserve by installing entrance gates and beginning construction of the Jack Hayes memorial site. At Cedar Bay Landing, this same group will install screening to keep plants from growing above the boardwalk decking.

From August 22nd-24th we welcome the Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts conclave to the McMurtrie Preserve. Twenty-five teenage scouts and fifteen adults will camp at the preserve. This is no "put your feet up and relax" sort of trip. They will labor to construct and place ten benches, replace decking and hand railing on the Cedar Creek dam, and clear shrubs to restore an oak savanna along the lake. We are thankful for strong backs and the energy of youth!

We Miss You Jack!

With this issue we say goodbye to Jack Hayes, a great friend of the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust and Cedar Lake. Jack passed away on Easter Sunday this year. Jack worked for years with the Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District to study and manage water quality in his beloved Cedar Lake. As a founding board member, he was instrumental in the beginnings of the land trust. Over his years of maintaining the Cedar Lake dam, he developed personal relationships with Marion McMurtrie and her daughter, Phyllis Menke. Phyllis and her husband Bob made the very first and most significant donation to the land trust to date: The McMurtrie Preserve. We have lost a great friend and champion of our cause. We will honor Jack with our continued work toward preserving environmentally sensitive land. To help us in this effort, you may make contributions to the Jack Hayes Memorial Fund. Please make checks payable to the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust.