

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Color, high quality, 12 month 2006 Calendar featuring beautiful photographs taken in St. Croix and Polk Counties by land trust members.

The calendar is a special gift for current and new land trust members. If you paid membership in 2005, a date is indicated on the mailing label. You can still receive a member gift by renewing or joining the land trust today! Calendars will be mailed to you in early December.

Calendars make great Christmas gifts! To order additional calendars at \$20 each, please enclose a check payable to the SPLPT and mail to: Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc., PO Box 88, Star Prairie, WI 54026

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Calendars: \$20 each (includes shipping) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (amount enclosed)

Your photographs could be on next year's calendar! Winning photos of natural features from St. Croix and Polk Counties will appear on our 2007 calendar. Contest details to be announced in an upcoming newsletter. Start taking those pictures!



## Join Us!!

Please send RSVP and/or Membership Enrollment to:  
SPLPT, P.O. BOX 155, New Richmond, WI 54017

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Category *Please check one*

- Individual @ \$20 each
- Business/Organization \$100
- Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

Volume 3 • 2nd Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

Fall 2005

## ACTIVITY UPDATES



### McMurtrie Preserve

#### Dedication

August 16, 2005 was an important day for the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust. It was on this day that land trust members and representatives of several organizations joined the board of directors in honoring and thanking Phyllis and Bob Menke for their incredible generosity and foresight in creating the McMurtrie Preserve. Phyllis and Bob were supported by their son Hank, and his son who traveled from Indiana and their daughter Karen who traveled from Atlanta.



Phyllis Menke addresses the crowd at the McMurtrie Preserve Dedication

#### Speakers included:

- Mike Reiter, Wisconsin Conservation Congress and St. Croix County Sportsmen's Alliance
- Bob Heise, St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Jack Hayes, Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
- Jim Reimer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dan Bygd, Star Prairie Fish and Game
- Dan Cain, Pheasants Forever
- Buzz Sorge, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Steve Wojan, New Richmond East Elementary

Andy Lamb, Wisconsin Legislative Representative also shared remarks on the significance of the project for the future. Guided tours of the nature trails followed the dedication.



The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations, whose words of thanks will not be heard.

Senator Gaylord Nelson



## Environmental Learning Center Plans

The land trust board of directors voted to pursue plans for an environmental learning center at the McMurtie Preserve at our June meeting. Since then, we have been busy investigating options and planning the work that needs to be completed to make this dream a reality.

Land trust director, Peter Kling is heading up a design team that will identify facility needs and then develop preliminary designs and cost estimates. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project.

## Winter Gatherings

Land trust members will host informal gatherings in their homes to spread the word about the environmental learning center. While mostly an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, information about the proposed learning center will be on hand. Don't worry, this will be fun - no meetings, no presentations. You can learn about the center, and board members will be there to answer questions and gather any ideas you might want to share. Food and drink will be in ample supply. Please contact XXX if you would like to be included on one of our invitation lists.

## Star Prairie Fish and Game Bucks Night



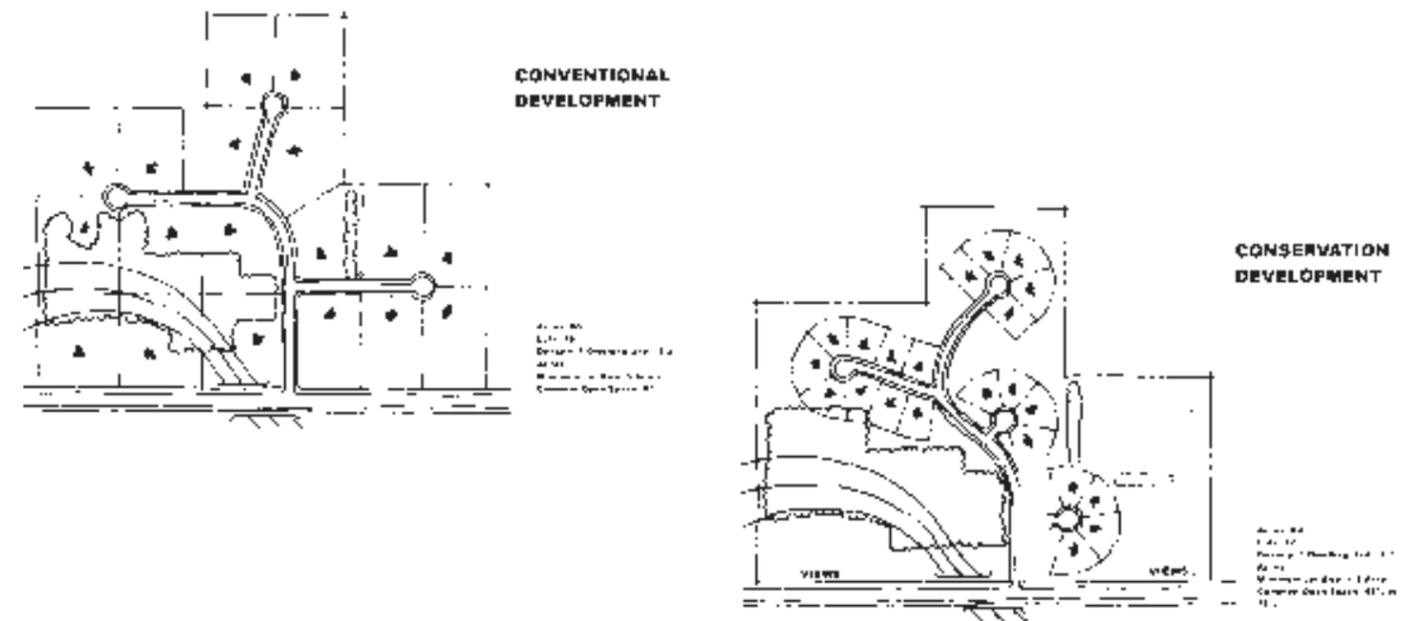
## Conservation Design Subdivisions - Proposed Ordinance Changes for Open Space Preservation

An average of 4,500 acres are converted to rural residential subdivisions in St. Croix County each year; that's nearly one township every 5 years! Much of this development occurs in the traditional manner that maximizes the number of lots on a property with little or no regard to the natural features present. The rural character important to so many of us is destroyed in the process.

A new, more sustainable option for residential development is the conservation design approach. Conservation design preserves rural character and natural resources by allowing smaller residential lots in exchange for open space preservation. Under the new ordinance, a developer is given a bonus in the number of lots he/she can create in exchange for setting aside at least 65 percent of the property in permanent open space. The open space can be farmland, lakeshore, river corridor, woodland, or other environmentally sensitive areas. The open space must be protected with a conservation easement and could be owned by an individual, a homeowners association, or it could be donated to the state or a nonprofit organization such as a land trust.

*Conservation design subdivisions allow smaller residential lots in exchange for preserving farmland or natural features on the landscape. Conservation design subdivisions will be possible in St. Croix County if the County Board approves the proposed Land Division Ordinance in December 2005.*

### Conventional Vs. Conservation Development 3 Acre Minimum Lot Standard



Contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 715-786-4680 or go to the St. Croix County Website at [www.co.saint-croix.wi.us](http://www.co.saint-croix.wi.us) for more information.