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Star Prairie Land  
Preservation Trust, Inc.

P.O. Box 88  
Star Prairie, WI 54026



# Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

Volume 9 • First Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

July 2011

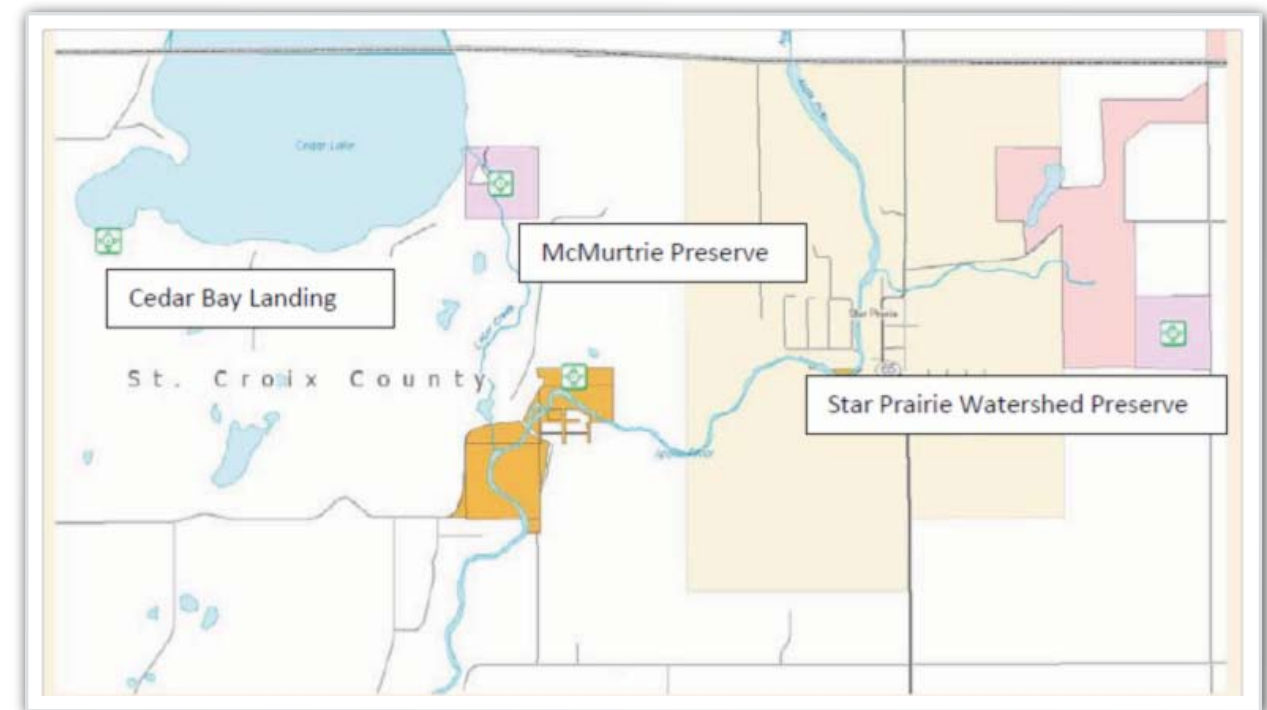
## ACTIVITY UPDATES



### Current Land Holdings

One of the main activities of the land trust is preserving and caring for land for conservation purposes. We are taking the opportunity with this issue of the newsletter to describe our current land holdings. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust is a locally based, non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve environmentally sensitive land and to promote rural character while protecting water quality and wildlife habitat for future generations. As a non-profit land trust, we hold land titles and conservation easements. The primary geographic focus for the trust is northern St. Croix and southern Polk counties. The Land Trust was formed in 2002 by individuals who were concerned that the rapid pace of development was resulting in the loss of valuable natural areas.

The land trust would not be successful without many important partners supporting the projects. These include: Star Prairie Fish & Game Association, Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, Indianhead Bass Club, Ducks Unlimited, New Richmond Boy Scouts, Pheasants Forever, The St. Croix County Sportsman's Alliance, The Willow River Rod and Gun Club, Wild Turkey Federation, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, St. Croix County Land & Water Conservation Department, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



## ACTIVITY UPDATES



### Properties Owned by the Land Trust

THE MCMURTRIE PRESERVE – a 63-acre tract of land with 1,400 feet on the southeast shore of Cedar Lake. A trail system meanders through the property providing access to a diversity of wildlife habitat including hardwood swamp, oak savannah, and pine plantations. Environmental education activities are provided for area school children and scouting groups. This premier land trust holding was generously donated by Bob and Phyllis Menke. In keeping with the wishes of the donors, this property is open to the public for special events only.



CEDAR BAY LANDING – 1.3 acres on the southwest shore of Cedar Lake provides a picnic area and lake access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and bird-watching. Open to the public.

THE STAR PRAIRIE WATERSHED PRESERVE – a 40-acre parcel of restored native prairie, located just east of Star Prairie (on County Road H) which complements the surrounding U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Areas. Open to the public.

### Conservation Easements held by the Trust

*These properties are privately owned and open to the public by special arrangement and permission only.*

THE IRLE EASEMENT – a 40-acre conservation easement of undeveloped forest land with a rustic cabin. This property is adjacent to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Waterfowl Production Areas.

THE NELSON EASEMENT – a 12-acre conservation easement beginning the creation of a connected corridor between the McMurtrie Preserve and lands owned by St. Croix County.

THE SCHOTTLER EASEMENT – a 162-acre conservation easement that includes a working Christmas tree farm. This agricultural acquisition prevents development around a 20-acre wild lake, preserves habitat for wildlife, and provides scenic rural views along the roadway.

### What is a Conservation Easement?

Conservation easements are voluntary, permanent legal agreements that restrict some land use to protect important conservation values. The organization holding the easement shares the responsibility to ensure the terms of the easement are upheld. Conservation easements allow landowners to retain ownership and use of their land while permanently protecting conservation values on the property.

Conservation easements are relatively flexible tools, and the restrictions on land use varies from easement to easement, depending upon the landowner's needs, the mission of the land trust holding the easement, and most importantly, on the conservation values of the property. Typical easement restrictions include limitations on subdivision or development of the property, limits on uses that would cause erosion or degradation of habitat, and limits on commercial or industrial use. *Information from gatheringwaters.org*

## ACTIVITY UPDATES



### Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust Committees

*Consider joining a committee to help out with the work of the trust!*

- Board Development Committee: Develop and enhance the strength of the SPLPT by identifying potential board members, enhancing their knowledge, and encouraging participation. (Chair: Beth Wood, 715-248-7300 or [president@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:president@starprairielandtrust.org))
- Education Committee: Develop and deliver educational programs that enhance people's understanding of land stewardship and environmental protection. (Chair: Mike Reiter, 715-246-6643 or [education@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:education@starprairielandtrust.org))
- Marketing & Public Relations Committee: Increase organizational visibility and recognition in surrounding communities. (Chair: Trish Moberg, 715-294-2610 or [marketing@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:marketing@starprairielandtrust.org))
- Membership & Fundraising Committee: Maintain a stable, active membership and conduct fundraising activities that contribute to the financial strength of the organization. (Chair: Valerie Hogan, 715-248-4849 or [membership@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:membership@starprairielandtrust.org))
- Property Acquisition & Management Committee: Protect environmentally sensitive land (through acquisition or easements), and manage properties to ensure environmental quality, while following and enforcing the requirements contained in property agreements. (Chair: Mike Kelly, 715-246-4109 or [property@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:property@starprairielandtrust.org))

To join a committee, or for additional information, please contact the committee chair. Detailed job descriptions are available upon request.

#### ATTENTION: MEMBERS

Please make sure we have your E-mail address!  
(Send it to: [membership@starprairielandtrust.org](mailto:membership@starprairielandtrust.org))  
This helps save money on mailings (membership renewals and occasional announcements).  
We will only contact you a few times per year, and will not share your E-mail address with any other organizations. Thank you.

For more information go to: [starprairielandtrust.org](http://starprairielandtrust.org)