



Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

Volume 3 • 2nd Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

Summer 2005

ACTIVITY UPDATES



McMurtrie Preserve

Service Learning Day

From Mike Reiter, Director

The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust and the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association extend a big thank you to the high school students and teachers who helped out during the recent New Richmond High School Service Learning Day. In spite of on and off again rainfall, the students worked non-stop throughout the day. One group cleared trails and removed buckthorn and other invasive shrubs and trees from the McMurtrie Preserve. Another group of students positioned fieldstone in the shallow water on the north end of Cedar Lake to provide quality walleye spawning areas for future generations of Cedar Lake fish. St Croix County Woodland Owners Association member Jack Rasmussen, United States Fish & Wildlife Service employee Kevin Hanson, and teacher Mandi Erickson supervised the McMurtrie project. DNR Fisheries Biologist Marty Engel and Gene Hatzenbeler and teacher Renee Kaczmariski supervised the Cedar Lake project. Adult helpers on both projects included Jackie Mitchell, Brian Settergren, and Larry Erickson plus members of the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association and Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust. The students learned valuable conservation lessons while important environmental projects progressed. What a great combination!



High school students help out

Volunteers Needed

Storm Damage Clean-Up

High winds in the storm Wednesday, June 29th knocked down numerous mature trees at the McMurtrie Preserve. Clean-up is underway, but there is much work to do.

Oak Savannah Restoration

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a contractor is clearing invasive trees and shrubs in an area to be restored to oak savannah. Volunteers are needed to assist him.

To volunteer for clean-up and clearing work, please call Stuart Nelson 715-248-3829.



Cedar Bay Landing

From Peter Kling, Director

A name is chosen and we are nearly ready to start construction on the new access on the southwest end of Cedar Lake. Design and permitting are underway to begin construction of the Cedar Bay Landing this fall! The Trust will develop a 78 x 86 ft parking lot and 4 x 50 ft walking trail. The parking lot will compliment the nearby Town of Star Prairie owned winter drive-on access by providing safe parking for early season ice anglers. The landing will also provide a new public carry-in canoe and kayak access to the lake. A short walking trail and floating dock that crosses the near-shore marsh will protect sensitive plants while allowing foot traffic to the lake. Benches at the end of the dock will make this an excellent spot to watch migratory birds and other wildlife.

Thanks to the Town of Star Prairie for allocation of Park Dedication Funds for the landing purchase



A young resident of the McMurtrie Preserve

and development. We also wish to thank the St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department staff for designing the parking lot and trail, providing construction oversight, and conducting final inspections. The parking lot design incorporates a pretreatment and infiltration basin and buffer strip to minimize runoff to Cedar Lake.

Parking lot construction is planned this fall. Walkway and dock construction is set for the spring of 2006.



Recycle Your Old Dock Supports!

We anticipate a need for pipe dock supports with a disk or wheel rim base for use in the dock and walkway construction. Many of you who have converted to a wheeled dock may have these in storage. Please save them for us for one more winter. We will issue a call for your donations when we are ready for the walkway construction.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



River Island Park Party

Tuesday, August 16th
Beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Presented by Star Prairie Fish and Game

Come for
Musical Entertainment!

- Sun Mountain Fiddler Bank, New York State
- Trigger Happy

Food and Drink! Lots of Fun!

7:00 p.m. A special announcement to enhance the
educational opportunities at the McMurtrie Preserve

Parking and shuttle service available from the Star Prairie ballpark.

Grant Supporters

With final state budget approval, we will have
more help in hand to complete important projects.

Department of Natural Resources Lake Protection Grant

Cedar Bay Conservation Legacy Project

Grant Amount: \$7,667

Reimburses some of the expenses for the acquisition of the
McMurtrie Preserve.

Department of Natural Resources River Planning Grant

Horse Creek, Cedar Creek and Apple River

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Provides educational curriculum and interpretive materials for
education about river ecosystems, establishes priorities for
protection along area waterways, and helps to strengthen
protection efforts of the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust.

United State Fish and Wildlife Service

Oak Savannah Restoration

Grant Amount: \$2,500

Provides contractor to remove invasive shrubs and
trees to establish an oak savannah. Volunteer time is
needed to match this grant.

Pheasants Forever

Oak Savannah Restoration

Assists with site preparation and seeding.

Gathering Waters and Quixote Foundation

Provides planning and development assistance.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 2nd
7:00 p.m.

Star Prairie Community Center
207 Bridge Avenue
Star Prairie, WI

Join us to learn more about the
business of the land trust.

Please RSVP by returning the card below.

*** For Star Prairie Land
Preservation Trust Members ***

If you are not yet a member,
why not join today?

McMurtrie Preserve Dedication & Grand Opening

Tuesday, August 16th
3:00 p.m.

Meet at the parking area off of
County M, just over one mile
NW of Star Prairie

This special event will recognize the movers and
shakers who made this dream a reality!
(Remember, we include our members in this group)

Get a sneak preview of a special announcement
to be made at the park party.
Tours will follow the dedication.

Please RSVP by returning the card below



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 _____

I will attend:

- Annual Meeting
- McMurtrie Preserve
Dedication

Annual Membership Category
Please check one

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