



Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

Volume 4 • 1st Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

Summer 2006

ACTIVITY UPDATES



McMurtrie Preserve

From Mike Reiter, Director

Oak Savanna Restoration

An oak savanna is a native prairie ecosystem once common across St. Croix County. Oak savannas consist of native grasses and flowers with scattered trees. They provide important habitat for a variety of animals. The Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust is working with our partners to restore an example of this ecosystem near the entrance at the east side of the McMurtrie Preserve.

The restoration project began last fall with clearing of brush and invasive trees that had begun to grow over an opening in the pines in this portion of the Preserve. A grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided some paid assistance for clearing. Volunteers from the land trust and Star Prairie Fish and Game and a work crew from the St. Croix Correctional facility in New Richmond moved brush to piles where it was burned last winter. The savanna will be burned to further reduce growth of woody vegetation, and seeded in the spring of 2007 with assistance from Pheasants Forever.

On May 18th, New Richmond Service Learning Day student volunteers helped to restore the oak savannah by planting numerous white oak trees. Members of the Star Prairie Fish and Game Association and the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust oversaw the operation. Thanks to the students who helped make this annual event a resounding success!



Mick Anderson generously donated equipment to help clear and move brush



Workers remove brush

ACTIVITY UPDATES



Aquatic Plant Project off McMurtrie Preserve Shores

Not too many years ago, stands of emergent bulrush near the shores of the present day McMurtrie Preserve stretched 200 -300 yards out from shore. Throughout Cedar Lake shallows, native aquatic vegetation was the rule rather than the exception, providing habitat for fish and the invertebrates they feed upon. Today, Cedar Lake lacks the good quality native vegetation needed for a healthy lake.

On May 19th members of the Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Star Prairie Fish & Game Association, and the DNR set out to address this problem. Three test plots with 130 plants including fowl manna grass, broad leaved arrowhead, soft stem bulrush, giant bur-reed, blue flag iris, and wool grass sedge were planted under the watchful eye and direction of DNR Plant Specialist Deb Konkel and



Cedar Lake aquatic planting underway

Fisheries Manager Marty Engel. If the plantings are successful, the program will be expanded, and Cedar Lake will take another step toward the goal of providing the best quality natural aquatic habitat possible.



South Cedar Bay Landing

The South Cedar Bay Landing will provide a wildlife-viewing platform and carry-in access at the south end of Cedar Lake on property owned by the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust. The landing parking lot will also serve early season ice-anglers. The project was delayed slightly to take advantage of potential grant support available from the Department of Natural Resources. The results of the St. Croix County sponsored grant application will be available soon. The Town of Star Prairie and Cedar Lake District will provide matching funds. Watch for installation this fall!

ACTIVITY UPDATES



Boche Property - A New Land Trust Acquisition

Prairie Potholes, lands with ponds surrounded by prairie upland, are a priority native Wisconsin landscape because of the waterfowl habitat they provide. To protect and restore these lands, the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust joined with Ducks Unlimited, the Department of Natural Resources, and other conservation organizations in a grant request to the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) program. The successful application is providing \$1,000,000 to preserve and restore thousands of acres of prairie potholes across Northwest Wisconsin. A portion of the NAWCA Prairie Potholes grant was used to purchase the 40-acre Boche Property, one mile east of the Village of Star Prairie at the intersection of County Highway H and 150th Street. This land will now be protected from the bulldozer's blade.

The Boche property is a significant acquisition in part because of its proximity to other acreage already owned and protected from development by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This purchase will also protect the drinking water watershed and aquifer for the Village of Star Prairie. Special thanks go out to the Boche family, who patiently worked with us to ensure preservation of the parcel. Additional thanks go to the Deer Lake Conservancy and the Star Prairie Fish and Game Association, who provided their NAWCA grant allocations toward this project. The Village of Star Prairie also contributed \$10,000 toward the parcel purchase. Prairie restoration support will come from DNR, US Fish and Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, Chrisdhome Farms and the Kruscke family.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



A big thank you goes out to a few of our recent contributors

Wisconsin Conservation Warden's Association: \$500

Polk Burnett Operation Round Up: \$500

Walmart: \$1,000

St. Croix Valley Foundation: \$2,000

Our Annual Members

We'd like to add you to our list of supporters. Open space preservation is critical work that requires significant resources. Please help!!!

A heart-felt thank you to the members of Star Prairie Fish and Game for the sustaining support you provide to the land trust!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



We Need You!!!

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 9th • 6:00 p.m.

Star Prairie

Land Preservation Trust

Star Prairie Community Center

207 Bridge Avenue

Star Prairie, WI

Land Protection Strategy Survey

Please help us prioritize
Northern St. Croix and Southern Polk
County properties for protection by
filling out and returning the
enclosed survey today!

Please renew your membership and
consider an additional
donation to our efforts!

River Island Park Party

Village of Star Prairie

Tuesday, August 15th

Musical Entertainment

Old Time Music (1 p.m.)

Sun Mountain Fiddler Band (5 p.m.)

Trigger Happy (8 p.m.)

Free Admission

Food and Beverages available all afternoon and evening
Afternoon craft demonstrations and
displays by area senior citizens
Parking and shuttle service available
from the Star Prairie ballpark

Proceeds go to McMurtrie Preserve improvements
Thank you Star Prairie Fish and Game
and New Richmond Community Education!!



Join Us!!

Please send Membership Enrollment to:
SPLPT, P.O. BOX 88, Star Prairie, WI 54026

Visit our website at:
starprairielandtrust.org

Renewals paid from now through the end of the year will go toward 2007 membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Category
Please check one

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