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Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.
Box 88
Star Prairie, WI 54026



Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, Inc.

Volume 8 • First Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS

July 2010

ACTIVITY UPDATES



The Environmental Vision of the Irle Easement

Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust's most recent easement acquisition is a 40-acre parcel owned by Warren and Missy Irle. Warren, a retired construction worker, and Missy, a scheduler/planner for Stillwater's DiaSorin, Inc., have resided on the land for the past 35 years. The land and farmstead have been in the Irle family since 1943. Warren and Missy's vision for the easement is to protect the beauty of the land and enhance the environment for the native plants and animals that call it home.

The easement was finalized in December 2009 to "preserve the property in perpetuity in its

predominantly scenic, natural and forestry condition." It will permanently protect the mature hardwoods on this heavily wooded lot from commercial or industrial uses, subdivision, building construction, and roadways. Aside from a residential zone around the existing house, development and improvements will be limited to restoration or enhancement of plant and animal communities, and timber harvesting. Located four miles east of Star Prairie on Highway H, the land is near the Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) and many other US Fish & Wildlife WPAs, but public access is not included in the terms of this easement.



McMurtrie Preserve: A Service Learning Experience

This year's New Richmond High School Service Learning Day was held on May 21st. Through student participation in community projects, this annual event integrates meaningful community service with student instruction and reflection. Student participation enriches the academic experience, teaches civic responsibility, and strengthens communities.

Volunteer activities usually last four hours, but for Rachel Sauvola's Conservation & Leadership class, project preparations began in the classroom, long before Service Learning Day rolled around. Student groups researched environmental topics—tree & bird identification, lake water testing, fishing, water bugs, stream flow, surface water pollution, soil, groundwater, and a nature hike—and created lesson plans to present their findings. With the equipment and expertise of Aleisha Miller, Information & Education Specialist for the St. Croix County Land & Water Conservation Department, Sauvola's students led a series of three Environmental Education Field Days for New Richmond 5th grade students. Held May 17th, 18th, and 21st at McMurtie Preserve, these field days showcased the environmental knowledge and public speaking skills Sauvola's students gained from the project. The efforts of these dedicated students also provided the 5th grade class with valuable, hands-on learning experiences in the context of their local environment.



Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust

Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust is teaming up with US Fish & Wildlife Service and Star Prairie Fish & Game (SPLPT, USF&WS and SPF&G) for two upcoming events: the Star Prairie Area Natural Resources Tour and St. Croix County Farm/City Day.

Natural Resources Tour

The Natural Resources Tour will be held on July 17th. Local elected officials, civic organizations, and educators will participate in a narrated bus tour of conservation projects owned and managed by SPLPT: the McMurtie Preserve, Cedar Bay Landing, Star Prairie Watershed Preserve, and USF&WS Waterfowl Production Areas. Lunch at River Island Park will be followed by a tour of the park and the adjacent Star Prairie Trout Farm.



Farm/City Day

The second event, St. Croix County Farm/City Day, will take place on August 14th at the Jerry Croes farm, located just west of Deer Park. The role of SPLPT, USF&WS, and SPF&G will be to educate attendees about the important role of conservation in conjunction with production agriculture. Indianhead Chapter of Pheasants Forever will be joining us at this event. SPLPT is grateful for the generous and ongoing contributions of these conservation partners.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

This year's SPLPT annual meeting will be held on
Monday July 12 at 6pm.

Please join us at the
Menke Cabin located on the McMurtie Preserve,
at the end of South Cedar Drive.