



the Prairie News

Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund P.O. Box 1802 Kenosha, Wis. 53141

Very nice Hammon

Nature. We depend on it. And it depends on us.

Dear Friends,

In what has become the new normal, we are doing our best to take care of some very special nature, Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area (CPSNA). Now, normal is flooding in 2020 followed by severe drought for most of 2021, aggressive growth of woody invasives due to higher carbon dioxide levels, and the appearance of several new exotic plant species. All challenges we gladly accept as we carry out *our mission to acquire, restore, manage, and preserve Chiwaukee Prairie and support research and environmental education.*

Land Acquisition

This is our most important mission for we cannot restore, manage, or preserve land that is lost to development. This year we sent letters to the owners of 27 lots and received responses from two. One was from a California couple in their 90s who received the lot as a wedding present 60 years ago. Much time was needed arranging for document delivery and notary services as they are separated, living hours apart. We bought the lot. The second response was from a man whose father and aunt bought their lot in 1949. 72 years later there are multiple inheritors in multiple states and three attorneys, but the purchase is in progress. These are typical cases as most of the lots have been owned for decades and generations. It requires great patience, attention to detail, and great people skills, all of which our Land Chair has. She is planning to send many letters to owners in 2022. There are still 46 owners of 68 lots, the value of which is estimated to be over \$1 million. The good news is CPPF received a significant grant to buy land. By the end of the year, however, we expect to have spent it and own a total of 24 lots. Please help us buy this irreplaceable Prairie!

DONATION MATCH INFO ON PAGE 2

Restoration & Management

Our monthly workdays are almost back to normal. Masks are no longer required, and we try to keep volunteers spread out while working. Unfortunately, February 2020 was the last chili lunch. That has not stopped workday volunteers, independent volunteers, Neighbor Stewards, and CPPF Board members from racking up nearly 1,800 management hours. In

addition to field work, we have meetings with DNR staff to coordinate our efforts and this year we were able to facilitate contractor prescribed burns on 79 acres with another 31 acres planned for next Spring. Burns are the most effective management tool we have so being able to bring more fire to the Prairie is a real plus.

Science & Research

The Heritage Plant Monitoring Program species suffered from the drought, as did everything, and, for a second year, most were not monitored. Likewise, fewer Prairie White Fringed Orchids were counted. CPPF is currently working on a research proposal to study the effectiveness of burns in consecutive years to control Buckthorn, the Prairie's most pervasive and persistent invasive woody species.

Education & Outreach

We reached out to our Carol Beach neighbors by carrying our CPPF banner in their July 4th Parade. Kay led plant identification walks all season, with one in September for Wild Ones members when she identified 41 plants for them. Pam gave the Four Seasons Garden Club members a slide show on the history, importance, and life of the Prairie. The Chiwaukee story is also featured in an exhibit at the Pleasant Prairie Historical Museum. Our Monthly Update email with Prairie news, events, and volunteer opportunities reaches over 600 recipients.

In 1985, our founders, Donna Peterson and Joanne Rohan, gave 37 slideshows to educate the community about Chiwaukee. This year, our own board member, Carthage College Associate Professor of Biology, and accomplished nature photographer, Dr. Dana Garrigan, presents *Chiwaukee Prairie: A Photo Journal of Preservation*, an educational captioned special exhibit at the Kenosha Public Museum. Do not miss this beautiful story telling. (See Page 3)

Nature depends on us, all of us. We are deeply grateful to all who volunteer and donate and speak fondly of the Prairie to others. Together we will adapt to the task of helping to preserve this ecological gem.

Thank you everyone!

Pam Holy, President

We will continue until the last piece of land has been preserved

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES



Northern Leopard Frog

by Sasha Johnson

Monthly Update

PLEASE, send CPPF your email address and once a month we will send you Prairie news and photos, upcoming events and plans for the workday.

cppf@chiwaukee.org

CPPF does not share its email or address lists

Workdays

No experience necessary. On the job training.

Mark your calendars! All year long, volunteers come to Chiwaukee Prairie on the **3rd Saturday of the month** to do whatever is needed. Find plans, times and location in our Monthly Update, Facebook, and website. **Send volunteer questions to** volunteer@chiwaukee.org

ALSO in 2022 ...

Naturalist-led Walks

Native Seed Collection

Chiwaukee History Walk

Heritage Plant Monitoring

Neighbor Steward Program

Equipment Training/Maintenance

Invasive Species Identification Training

...for information on volunteer activities and opportunities, special events, photos, flora and fauna lists, history, and to view the Prairie map, please visit:

www.chiwaukee.org

www.facebook.com/chiwaukee

www.facebook.com/groups/chiwaukee

www.instagram.com/chiwaukeeprairiepreservation

\$ FOR \$ MATCH

Longtime patrons of Chiwaukee Prairie, including Jack and Terry Shouba, will match up to \$20,000 of donations received from individuals by January 31, 2022.

All donations are available for land acquisition in Chiwaukee Prairie. Please consider making your gift “Discretionary” to give us flexibility to do “whatever is needed” to acquire and manage the Prairie.

The **Basic Membership** remains at the bargain price of \$10, but more is always welcome! Donate \$100 to be a **Blazing Star**. Donate \$500 to be a **Life Member**. And the category of **Sustaining Member** acknowledges life members who donate another \$500 or a new \$1000 donor. **Any amount is very much appreciated!**

OPTION: DONATE ONLINE WITH A DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD

www.chiwaukee.org/donate

You can earn \$\$ for the Prairie

List Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund Inc with Goodsearch and AmazonSmile

Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization. Donations are tax deductible and much appreciated! **Please consider CPPF when planning your will!**

Many Thanks

We are grateful to **Dana Garrigan for Zooming** our monthly Board meetings, to the folks at **Landmark Title Corporation** for all their help with our land acquisition efforts, and to the **Minuteman Press** crew, our Newsletter Angels.

CPPF Board of Directors

Pam Holy, President (262) 658-8336
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Eric Howe, Treasurer/InfoTechnology
Ingrid Verhulst, Secretary/Land Chair (773) 275-2228
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Rebecca Power, Heritage Plant Program
Nathan Robertson, Chief Steward (262) 694-7351
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Chiwaukee Prairie Takes Center Stage at the Kenosha Public Museum Special Exhibit

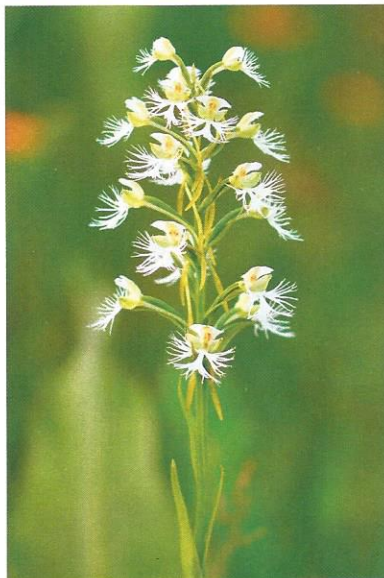


Mark your calendars for the Special Exhibit featuring the photography of Carthage College biology professor and CPPF board member Dr. Dana Garrigan.

Chiwaukee Prairie: A Photo Journal of Preservation
November 20, 2021 - March 6, 2022

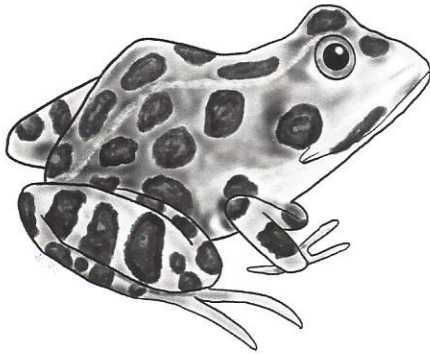
Kenosha Public Museum

CPPF is proud to co-sponsor this exhibit that shares the Chiwaukee story with the community. Your unrestricted donations to CPPF will help to support this amazing educational opportunity.



All images © Dana Garrigan. Clockwise from upper right: Shooting Stars in the spring; volunteers protecting rare plants from grazing; threatened Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid; Common Yellowthroat; Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Dense Blazing Star.

Return Service Requested



Northern Leopard Frog
by Jaime Johnson

Many thanks to all of our stewardship volunteers!

Kristen Camacho
Amy Chathaway
Jeff Cologna
Claire Coughran
Tim Eckert
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JOIN US!

Restoration
Seed Collecting
Rare Plant Monitoring
Invasive Species Removal
Mowing Trails & Firebreaks
Equipment Maintenance
Brush Clearing
Mapping

(November 2020-October 2021)

WE APOLOGIZE IF YOUR NAME WAS OMITTED

Friends of Chiwaukee Prairie

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Anonymous Foundation Gift
Crown Family Philanthropies
The Hinrichs Foundation
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Lynne & Peter Weil
Wild Ones Root River Chapter

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- Julie Long

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Educators Credit Union
Microsoft
SAP Software Solutions
U.S. Cellular

PREVIOUS GRANTS/GIFTS

H.M. Benstead Jr. Foundation
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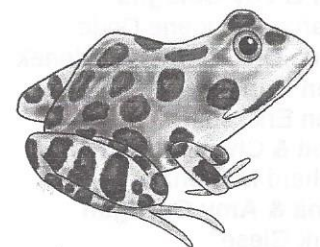
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Dairyland Charitable Foundation
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WE Energies Corporate Foundation
Wild Flower Preservation Society of Illinois
Wild Ones Root River Chapter

Donations were received between
11/18/2020 and 11/15/2021

*If an omission or error exists,
please contact us.*

cppf@chiwaukee.org



JSJ 2021