



Spring/Summer 2004

## In This Issue:

- 1 Donation for Intern  
Photos Wanted
- 2 Seed Program  
Mornings...  
Recipe Corner
- 3 Member Change of Address  
Observations...  
Advertisements
- 4 Important Nature Dates  
How to Attract Birds
- 5 Email Addresses  
Iowa-Lafayette Activities  
Respect Trails  
Fox Cities Raffle Winners
- 6 Wings Race Night  
How to Plant a Tree  
Free Seed to Landowners
- 7 Executive Dinner Invitation

Remember to order your  
tickets for the Executive  
Dinner!!

May 15, 2004

### All Cash Door Prizes

Holiday Inn - Fond du Lac

See Inside for Invitation!

# Wings Over Wisconsin NEWS

## Wings Donation for Summer Intern

For the second year in a row Wings Over Wisconsin Green Bay chapter will be making a donation to the Brown County Land Conservation Department to hire a college intern for the summer months. This year we will be donating \$2,000 for this great project.

The state matched funds will pay the intern to continue work on installation of Vegetated Buffer Strips associated with the Conservation Reserve Enhancements program (CREP).

Last year, Erin Frist was hired and she has agreed to return again this year to continue this important work. Erin feels that the LCD employees have taught her more about conservation practices than any professor in a classroom ever could.

Currently, the landowners are approached on a voluntary basis to install a minimum of 35 feet of buffers along any agricultural land that borders streams in Brown County. There are also financial benefits for the landowners from state and federal dollars which will be paid out in a 15 year period.

As a result of Erin's efforts, 17 landowners signed up for a total of 215.46 acres of Buffers. Those acres will provide outstanding wildlife habitat and a great filter of non-point pollutants. The 215.26 acres installed equals over 5.93 miles of buffers. The Great Lakes Commission estimates that 1 mile of buffer strip will trap 22 tons of sediment and prevent it from entering streams and

eventually Green Bay where it causes great damage to fish and wildlife and water quality.

The Brown County Land Conservation department estimated that our donation last year of \$1,000 helped to prevent 130.46 tons of sediment from entering the streams, rivers and ultimately Green Bay.

Erin said, "One of the best things about this job is that I could see that we were making a positive contribution in our environment. Working with the Brown County Land Conservation Department to improve water quality and restore wildlife habitats has been rewarding. They truly make a difference in our community."

Erin also helped to install 13 wetland restoration projects in 2003. Great job Erin and we look forward to all of the positive results for this year.

## Photos Wanted



Show us what you see. We would like to put your photos on the web site to show off what WOW is all about. If you catch a neat wildlife moment or want to "ham" it up during a WOW event, share it with us.

We are looking for wildlife, nature and event photos. Be sure to include a caption and the photographers name to go with the photo.

You can submit your pictures by mail to: WOW, PO Box 202, Mayville, WI 53050 or E-mail it to: [office@wingsoverwisconsin.org](mailto:office@wingsoverwisconsin.org)

# Conservation Reserve Seed Program

WOW has partnered with Oak Prairie Farms to make native grass seed available at reasonable prices. The following are some of the varieties offered:

Big Bluestem \$5.75 / PLS lb.  
Switchgrass \$5.00 / PLS lb.  
Indian Grass \$7.25 / PLS lb.  
Canada Wild Rye \$5.00 / PLS lb.  
Little Bluestem \$9.50 / PLS lb.  
Side-oats Grama \$4.50 / PLS lb.

Evening Primrose \$0.90 / PLS oz.  
Black-eyed Susan \$2.10 / PLS oz.  
Yellow Coneflower \$2.10 / PLS oz.  
Brown-eyed Susan \$2.40 / PLS oz.  
Blue Vervain \$3.50 / PLS oz.

There are a large variety of mixes available. We can also match your CRP contract requirement exactly. CREP, WHIP, Continuous CRP, CP25 Karner Blue, CP25 Wet Mesic & Custom Mixes are also available.

To place your order for native seed please call 1-800-894-3884

WOW has a no-till drill available for rent also. The cost is \$10.00 per acre. Please call for availability at 920-387-5198.

## Mornings -

*Memories of special days start early and linger a lifetime.*

Over the years, some of my fondest memories throughout my hunting and fishing adventures were of mornings, especially very early mornings when it seemed to take forever before we could make out the surroundings.

These are some of my recollections of that most magical time of day:

## Recipe Corner

Please keep submitting recipes to us. We would like to publish them in the newsletter and possibly in a future cookbook. Thanks for your help. This issues recipe is:

### O'Brien's Goulash

Any wild game (deer, bear, elk, moose, etc.) will do for this recipe.

#### You will need:

1 1/2 lbs meat cut in small chunks

Add a dash of salt and braise for 1 hour or until brown.

#### Add the following to the meat:

|       |                   |                               |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 qt  | Tomato juice      | 1 red hot pepper              |
| 1 qt  | V-8 juice         | 1 sm can mushrooms            |
| 2 qts | Water             | 2 med onions (chopped)        |
| 2 Tbl | Salsa sauce (hot) | 2 big green peppers (chopped) |
| 2 Tbl | Shrimp sause      | 1 lb carrots (chopped)        |
| 1 Tbl | Sugar             | 1 stalk celery (chopped)      |

Add salt and pepper to taste.

In a duck marsh, concealed next to a pothole after slugging through mud and water, a slight breeze ruffling the tops of the cattails and the occasional whistling of ducks flying close overhead as they search for a resting place after an evening of cornfield feeding.



In a squirrel woods, clear, cold and crisp, sitting with my back against a tree watching as the bushy tails come out of their nests or dens, yawning, stretching and grooming themselves before starting their usual busy day.

Deer hunting, either gun or bow, after climbing up into a stand in the blackness, gradually making out details around me as it gets light and all sorts of birds and mammals come to life for the day. Every leaf rustle is cause for

excitement as it could be the buck of a lifetime.

Turkey hunting in a new spring woods with its sparse ground cover, after carefully preparing my ground blind, setting out the decoy, and hoping my calling will be good enough to fool one of the truly wild creatures. Then, after hearing the first ringing gobble, I'm never more alive as every nerve in my body is on instant alert.

Sitting in a line fence or cornfield next to a freshly cut field waiting for geese, hoping for a stout wind to help these gray travelers come within range. Then, hearing the first wild cries of a flock coming my way.

Fishing, when the boat slows to a stop at the spot we've chosen to start the day. The wake as we pass over the water slowly dissipates behind us as anchors are quietly lowered over the side and

tied off. Rods are unloosed, slip bobbers are set for desired depth, hooks are baited and cast out with the anticipation that the bobber will just keep going down, and wondering what makes it do so.

Trout fishing my favorite brook trout stream for one of God's most beautiful creations. Walking into the stream, hopefully getting rewarded with the glimpse of a deer slipping off to bed, the thunderous flush underfoot of a grouse, or the loud splash and frantic wing beats of a mallard as it explodes off the stream. Of course, early swats at the inevitable mosquitoes and deer flies add to the charm of the experience as well as smacking on wild raspberries or blackberries that never taste any better.

Ice fishing at the first dim light of dawn, walking out on snow that squeaks with every step and drilling a hole in clear, rock-hard ice that shatters with every turn of the auger. Icicles form on my mustache as I position the bucket as a seat and (hopefully) keeper of the catch. After baiting up, dropping the jig into the hole and following it as all of my attention focuses on thin fish line passing through a spring bobber as it stops, then wavers ever so slightly off the tip of the rod, the telltale bump of my quarry.

I would be remiss if I did not include in my morning memories the serenity of early Sunday mornings spent with my wife Sandy in our living room, sipping our first cups of coffee, with our miniature dachshunds Max or Heidi curled up under a blanket next to her on the couch, as our noses were buried in the morning papers.

These times have made my life very special, and I am thankful for them every day.

*Pat Wilmot writes from Mayville.*

## Member Change of Address

Just a reminder to all of our members to please let us know if your address changes so we can update our mailing list.

The address change can be forwarded to the main office. The address there is:

*Wings Over Wisconsin  
8 South Main St.  
PO Box 202  
Mayville, WI 53050*

Or E-mail it to:

[www.office@wingsoverwisconsin.org](mailto:www.office@wingsoverwisconsin.org)

loose strife, canary grass, foxtail, box elders and many other flora and alien cover in a Dodge county water basin referred to historically by the Winnebago Indians as the Ahmic River. Fire was nature's tool for maintaining the prairie and Clark lit the match that would re-ignite an immense piece of Wisconsin's history, if only in his own back yard.

In the ash of what today is Beaver Dam countryside, Clark would plant bags and buckets of aboriginal prairie seed, interwoven with purple coneflowers and Canada wild rye. Eventually, rattlesnake master, indigo, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, compass plant, big bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass, prairie sunflowers, prairie dock, and rosin weed would take root.

From the ashes would rise the prairie, from the prairie new wildlife, and from Clark's daily observations of the interaction of wildlife, plant and insect discovered there, a gift to his children initially scratched on paper. Ultimately, though, Clark's "Observations from a Wisconsin Prairie", is a gift to any one who appreciates a blending of Wisconsin natural history, superb story telling and compelling wildlife art.

By reaching back in time for something left behind in the wake of progress, Clark was also looking back across his own life. And remembering a piece of his childhood that, symbolically, had also gone up in smoke two decades before he would plant his first prairie seed. It's a burn he still feels today.

"In the early seventies there was native floral, quail, pheasants, deer, it was paradise," Clark said. "Miles of wilderness. And I saw it all disappear. Looking back, it was frightening what was done to my Grandfather's farm."

In 1989, Clark purchased 25 acres of remaining land from his Grandmother, property appraised at \$600,000 and prime for residential development on Beaver Dam Lake. Instead, Clark put his money where his mouth had always been and where his heart will always be.

"I needed to do something different with that property," he said. "In 1990, it was the first parcel of property that was put

### Classifieds

**For Sale:** Plotmaster implement. Includes 3-position disc harrow, seeder, compactor and chisel plow. Please contact John Hauptert from the Southwest Chapter for more information at 608-568-3378.



## Observations From a Wisconsin Prairie

*By Dick Ellis*

In 1990, Pat Clark began to put the torch to more than 40 acres of purple

in the Department of Natural Resources Glacial Habitat Restoration Project. The state had identified grasslands in the prairie pothole range that historically were very important to songbirds and waterfowl. I sold the development rights to the property and a permanent easement for prairie and wildlife restoration to the state. I gave the money (\$17,000) to my grandmother. She loved it that a commitment of that kind was being made on her property."

From the initial 25 acres and another 20 acres subsequently committed to the program by Clark, the Glacial Habitat Restoration Project to date has incorporated approximately 12,000 Wisconsin acres toward prairie restoration. Native seed for habitat restoration on the Clark acreage was cultivated from the Goose Pond Sanctuary of the Madison Audubon Society.

It was the sight and sounds of his restored prairie that began to call him in another way. As a gift to his children so that they would someday understand why their father chose a very different treasure over financial security, Clark began to take notes on what he was hearing and seeing on the restored habitat. Clark would routinely rise before the dawns to meld with his prairie to listen, watch, and to write. His first of many essays tumbled onto the pages in 1994.

"I just wanted to take 25 acres and put it back into the natural setting it was before the Europeans settled. I didn't want the easy path, I wanted the ethical route. When it was restored, what I was seeing and hearing began to spark a lot of childhood memories. I just started writing them down."

With 25 to 30 essays completed in longhand by 1996, long-time friend, hunting partner, and renowned Wisconsin wildlife artist Terrill Knaack asked if he might read the work in progress. Knaack made his belief perfectly clear that the audience for such rare writings should be expanded. Clark's work, Knaack urged, needed to be published. And he offered to create a variety of pencil sketches to compliment

## Important Nature Dates

- April 3 Tundra swan arrival*
- April 6 Ruffed grouse begin drumming; peak spring duck migration*
- April 14 Check bluebird boxes throughout nest season*
- April 18 Hen mallards begin nesting*
- May 1 Ring-necked pheasants nesting*
- May 14 Choke cherry blooms; Mallards hatching*
- May 18 Put out grape jelly and orange halves for orioles*
- May 27 White-tailed deer fawns are born now into June*
- June 7 Yarrow blooms*
- June 15 Black-eyed Susan blooms*
- June 24 Blue-winged teal chicks hatching*
- June 30 Rattlesnake master blooms*

the copy. "Observations from a Wisconsin Prairie" 125 essays and twenty corresponding sketches, was born.

Clark educates and entertains his reader. Instead of financial gain and materialism, his actions were driven by spiritualism and a pure love for the land. "The prairie," he said, "is the end result."

Although Clark marched to his own drummer in restoring family property to

*"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

prairie, Clark also speaks as a hunter of the need to restore our wild places. To Clark, a fish's last meal should not have been at the hatchery, and a pheasant shot should not have been planted that day on a farm.

"If we lose the places where the wildlife lives, then we lose hunting," he said. "If we can't restore what once was we ultimately lose the wonderful traditions that are passed on from father to sons and daughters." Clark calls these acres restored back to native prairie his gift to the wild things. He calls the essays from the observations on the Wisconsin prairie their gift back to him.

"We need places that don't grow crops or mortgages," he said. "We need places that grow solitude. Our culture has kind of got away from that. Anything that is birthed out love is a good thing. All I really wanted was to some day as an old man be able to hand these short stories to my two children so that they know why I did this. It's written for them, about the past. But, really, it's more about their future."

All proceeds from "Observations from a Wisconsin Prairie" will go toward purchasing and restoring more Wisconsin land to native prairie.

## How to Attract Birds to Your Yard



By: Birdman Bill

1. Don't be too tidy. Let nature take over a little around the edges of your garden. Leave seed heads on flowers for instance.
2. Encourage more native plants rather than imported foreign species.
3. Create a pond. Even the tiniest one will attract birds.
4. Put up several nest boxes. Birds like a choice.
5. Place several feeders and try to make one of them squirrel-proof.

6. Don't just feed birds in the winter. Feed them year round, especially when it's very wet or very dry.
7. Put out different types of food like seeds or peanuts.
8. Get a simple bird book with clear illustrations.
9. Invest in a decent pair of binoculars.
10. Try and keep your pet cat away if possible.

## Email Addresses

If you would like to get your newsletter or special announcements via the internet, please send us your email address. This will be a great way for us to save money on printing and postage. You can email your address to us at:

[office@wingsoverwisconsin.org](mailto:office@wingsoverwisconsin.org)

Thanks for your help!



## Iowa-Lafayette Chapter Activities

The Iowa-Lafayette chapter would like to share the following accomplishments:

Wings members planted over 14,000 trees this past season and moved nearly 400 trees from growing areas to other habitat areas.

Our birdseed program flourished again this year by providing 2 ton of birdseed to nursing homes and child daycare centers throughout the counties.

We awarded a \$250.00 scholarship to Jamie Palzkill from Mineral Point, WI.

Our chapter participated in the Iowa County Gun Locks for Youth program. While the locks are an important part of the program, our goal and emphasis is based on education and safe handling of firearms.

We successfully burned over 470 acres of prairie to support new habitat and growth.

Members planted 150 acres of corn, 75 acres of sunflowers and 50 acres of sorghum this spring.

Our chapter signed a 16 year lease with Iowa county for 100 acres located near Bloomfield Manor. It will be used for planting prairie grasses, harvesting seeds and planting food plots.

Our annual banquet will be held on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville, WI.

## Respect the Cross Country Ski Trails

Brad Taggett is working with the Mayville Chapter to make more public access for cross country skiers. The trails run through the Mayville Golf Club, the river and Wings land. Altogether he maintains about 10 miles of public ski trails.

Unfortunately, hikers, ATV riders and snowmobilers are unknowingly destroying the trails. Taggett understands that many people may not know what the trails are for and the trails will be posted next year. Four-wheelers damage the trail and make it difficult if not impossible to ski on. Snowmobiles leave a groove that skiers can get caught in, and hikers can easily destroy a clean ski trail, Taggett said.

ATVs are not allowed on the golf course or Wings properties, but they are allowed on the river which is open to everyone.

The trails also run on the river at times. "I would like to encourage people to share the river. If you see a portion of it that's obviously been smoothed out for a purpose, just leave it there," Taggett said.

Taggett, an avid outdoorsman and lifetime skier has been working on Wings land for the last two summer and fall seasons to prepare for the trails to open. "I really enjoy skiing and it's

another resource for the community to use. It's also another excuse to go outside and enjoy the outdoors," he said.

He plans to continue refining and extending the trails in the future and possibly organize a ski race.

## Fox Cities Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the Fox Cities Habitat & Wildlife Restoration raffle.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Don Oudenhaven of Appleton won the 2004 Polaris 330 Magnum ATV.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trent Novotney of Kaukauna won the 14' Polar Craft Jon Boat & Shorelander Trailer.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Eiting of Shiocton won a Browning Accera Rifle.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Kevin Pawlacyk of Neenah won (2) tickets for the 2004 race season @ Chicagoland.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tom Pedersen of Menasha won a 1/2 side of beef.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Tim Daczyk of Menasha won 1 Lake Michigan charter fishing trip for (4).
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bill Neabling of Neenah won a \$200 gift certificate for Matthews Tire & Auto.

*"To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug."*

Helen Keller





## *Come Racing with us! Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>*

Wings Over Wisconsin will be selling tickets for this evening of racing. The ticket price is \$7.00, a savings of \$3.00 per adult ticket.

More information will be made available in the near future. If you would like more info about getting tickets or possibly helping with this event, just give us a call at 920-387-5198.

Proceeds will benefit the Wings Marketing department.

- Don't forget to water your tree. Deep water regularly throughout the first growing season. Allow water to run slowly, soaking the soil, once or twice a week. Don't overwater.
- Have fun!

## Free Food Plot Seed to Landowners

Food plots are the natural method to use to provide both food and winter habitat for wildlife and to attract game. WOW has stressed the importance of food plots since its inception in 1980.

Once again this year, WOW is offering free seed to landowners willing to plant food plots and leave them undisturbed until the next spring. Short-maturity corn, grain sorghum and sunflower seed are available for landowners by calling the office at 920-387-5198 and making arrangements for pickup.

Wings Over Wisconsin obtains the seed at low cost from seed brokers. That's because it does not meet the tough germination standards needed for agricultural crop certification. Wings recommends landowners simply apply the seed at a higher rate and fertilize it.

Weed control is only necessary to the point of seedling success. Once the seedlings are growing above weeds, its fine to leave the weeds in the food plot. The presence of annual weeds actually enhances food plot attractiveness to many bird species. Deer, pheasants, turkeys and scores of songbirds use food plots throughout the year.

Some chapters not only pay landowners incentives to establish food plots, but also supply fertilizer.

Wings also has a number of different seeders available for rent to plant food plots. Please call 920-387-5198 or your local Wings chapter to find out availability of seeders.

## How To Plant A Tree

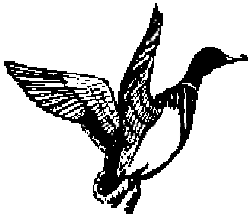
- Dig a wide hole. The diameter of the hole should be at least 2 and preferably 3 or more times the diameter of the root ball. The hole should be shaped like a shallow bowl, not a vertical column. Roots grow primarily near the surface. Loosening the soil as far as possible away from the trunk will make it easier for the roots to grow and establish.
- Leave the soil beneath the root ball undisturbed. The hole should be dug only as deep as the root system otherwise the ball will settle and the root collar will be too deep.
- Use existing soil to backfill. The soil removed from the hole should be loosened and broken up and then back filled around the root ball. Don't add other material to this fill.
- If your tree is balled and burlaped (B&B), cut the burlap and twine. They should be cut off or rolled down exposing the top half of the soil ball after the tree has been set in the hole.
- B&B trees normally don't need to be staked. If you do use stakes, remember to remove the stakes after one year. Also, if you stake, don't keep the staking wire too tight.
- Mulch your tree. A wood chip mulch is essential to keep the soil moist and cool, reduce weed competition and protect the trunk from weed whip and lawn mower injury.



- Don't plant too deep. The root collar (where the trunk and roots meet) should be even with the final grade.

# *Wings Over Wisconsin Executive Dinner*

***Saturday, May 15, 2004***  
***Holiday Inn - Fond du Lac***



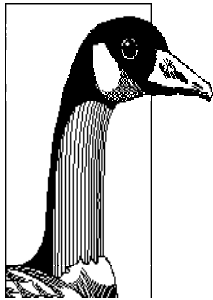
## ***ALL CASH DOOR PRIZES***

(Example: if 200 people attend)

|                       |    |                  |
|-----------------------|----|------------------|
| \$1,000 for every 100 | Or | 2 \$1,000 prizes |
| \$ 500 for every 50   | Or | 4 \$ 500 prizes  |
| \$ 250 for every 25   | Or | 8 \$ 250 prizes  |
| \$ 100 for every 10   | Or | 20 \$ 100 prizes |

***Raffle  
Boards***

***Auction***



***The Menu for the evening is  
Pepper Steak & Roast Pork  
with all the fixings***

**All Dinner Ticket Orders Must Be In By May 7, 2004**

If you need a room reservation, call 920-923-1440 and mention you're attending the Wings Over Wisconsin Executive Dinner. Make reservations at least two weeks in advance to receive a \$79.00 room rate.

***\*\* Due to liability concerns, drinks will not be included in the dinner price this year. \*\****

***Pepper Steak & Roast Pork with all the fixings!***

**Wings Over Wisconsin  
Executive Dinner**

Arrive: 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$ 60.00 ea



*Mail To:*

*Wings Over Wisconsin  
8 South Main Street  
PO Box 202  
Mayville, WI 53050*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Tickets Must Be Ordered By May 7, 2004***

***\*\* Due to liability concerns, drinks will not be included in the dinner price this year \*\****