



THE LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIPS

LPF Educator Partner Featured in National Geographic

Kathrina O'Connell, a sixth-grade teacher at **Lake Park Audubon Elementary**, was recently featured on National Geographic for her cross-curricular project about human impacts on prairie life. LPF was proud to help sponsor the expansion of her school's pollinator garden to promote this nature-based learning.

LPF Partners with Stearns County Landowners on Exciting New Project

Beginning as a 200+ acre easement project with private landowners in Stearns County, LPF's latest land stewardship endeavor has now morphed into a potential 330+ acre project with **Minnesota Land Trust**. Stay tuned for further updates!

LPF Joins Audubon Dakota at Downtown Fargo Street Fair

LPF joined **Audubon Dakota** at the Nature Fargo-Moorhead "pop-up prairie" experience, an interactive booth designed to engage family members of all ages while learning about prairie ecosystems, at the Downtown Fargo Street Fair this past July. Thanks to all who stopped by!



Biologist, Dr. Joe Whittaker, with Bee Hunt Participants; Photo: C. Rutter

Fifth Annual Bee Hunt Held in Ulen

On **July 13th**, LPF welcomed families from the Red River Valley to **LPF Site 2** just outside Ulen, MN for our Fifth Annual LPF Bee Hunt! Generously funded by the **FM Area Foundation**, the Bee Hunt allows explorers of all ages to learn about pollinators and their impact to our ecosystems, and to hunt for native bees! Participants had a chance to learn from LPF resident scholars, **D. Bryan Bishop** and **Joe Whittaker**, about the creatures who call the site their home. Then, armed with cameras, event-goers gathered images to add to citizen-science databases to aid in our understanding our local pollinator ecologies. The importance of our bee populations is vital to the health of our lands & our food systems. By contributing to these databases, *(cont. on page 2)*



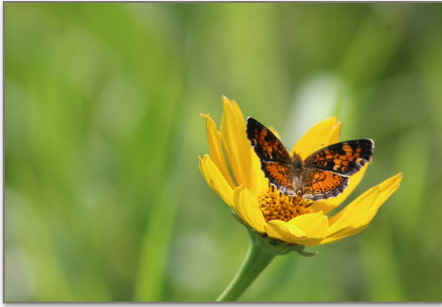


Photo: J. Whittaker

Get Involved & Stay Tuned!

Walk-in Access Program

Two LPF sites are open to public hunting in Clay and Mahanomen counties. Both sites are contiguous with thousands of acres of public land!

Find your next adventure:
longspurprairie.org/projects

Adopt-An-Acre

Together, we're building a network of restored prairies and wetlands in the Red River Valley. LPF offers five levels of annual prairie and wetland sponsorship. All proceeds directly support Longspur's programming and land acquisition initiatives.

Find out more at:
longspurprairie.org/adopt-an-acre

Regional News Archive

Keep up with the latest news of the ecology, agriculture, and sciences of the Red River Valley!

Read all about it:
longspurprairie.org/news

(cont. from page 1) the participants will have a hand in impacting the welfare of native bees for years to come.

The Bee Hunt is an opportunity to focus on some of the most at-risk species in the world in our very own backyard and one of the most pressing conservation issues of our time. We hope to welcome you all to our Sixth Annual LPF Bee Hunt during **National Pollinator Week** in **June of 2020!**

You're Invited to the Fifth Annual Longspur Prairie Fund Tent Fest!!

Mark your calendars for **21 September - LPF's Fifth Annual Tent Fest!** Great music, great beer, great cider, great views, and great people on the wide-open grasslands of the Agassiz Beach Ridge! The premier local festival for, on, and about the PRAIRIE OF THE HIGH PLAINS! Come and join us for an incredible night under the stars!

All 21+ are welcome!

All proceeds go to benefit and fulfill LPF's mission.

Learn more at: longspurprairie.org/annual-tent-fest





LPF Site 3 - Rourke Micro-Prairie; Photo: P. Schultz

On Site | The Rourke Art Gallery + Museum Micro-Prairie

This project consisting of two corner green spaces alongside the Museum building was a collaborative planting organized by the host site — **The Rourke Art Gallery + Museum** — the **Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**, and the incredible Phil Doll. We're so grateful for the support of **Thrivent Financial**, **Northwestern Bank**, **Moorhead Ace**, **Office Sign Company**, **Nature of the North**, and the **Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society** without whose faith and continuing support projects like these would not be possible.

In its third blooming season, the transformation is astounding. With diverse plantings growing dense and tall, no less than two dozen individual rusty patch bumble bees have been counted on any summer afternoon. In addition to being critical urban corridors for habitat, these local sites have lowered maintenance for local businesses and institutions and have become living billboards of color promoting natural alternatives to urban landscaping.

"The whole site has become a kaleidoscope of color and you have creatures everywhere," Longspur Prairie Fund director Peter Schultz says. "The whole site has been planted with a mix of flowers that basically respond at different times of the year so there is a different blooming period almost every time you drive by the museum."

Get Outdoors Before Summer's End!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events which celebrate our native landscapes & ecologies! Stay updated at facebook.com/longspurprairie/ with all new and upcoming events!

AUG 17, Sat 10 AM
Prairie Wildflower Ramble
*Three Rivers Park District,
 Plymouth, MN*

AUG 19, Mon 6:30 PM
Race the Red Canoe & Kayak Race
Dike East, Fargo, ND

AUG 21, Wed 6 PM
**River Paddling Excursion:
 Aviary Expedition**
*Hjemkomst Landing, Moorhead,
 MN*

AUG 24, Sat 9 AM
**WaterColors: En Plein Art on
 the Prairie Series**
Buffalo River State Park, Glyndon

SEP 11, Wed 12 PM
Fargo Reforest the Red
Trollwood Park, Fargo, ND

SEP 21 - SEP 22
The Fifth Annual LPF Tent Fest
LPF Ulen Prairie, Ulen, MN



Photo: C. Rutter



LPF Site 7 - 8th Street Micro-Prairie; Photo: P. Schultz

Prairie Spotlight | Micro-Prairie Installation in Fargo SOMA Neighborhood

LPF is pleased to announce a new local plot has joined its micro-prairie program! In collaboration with local luminary, **Christine Jaeger**, artist and visionary, **Jeff Knight**, and a group of dedicated installation volunteers, a new urban prairie has been installed at the corner of South 8th Street and 1st Avenue South. All species planted are of local origin and genotype, carrying the the benefits of a fully articulated prairie site on a small public plot.

This site will soon be home to an exciting new mural and educational panels on prairie and pollinator ecologies, plant and soil identification, and urban habitat. The addition of this micro-plot to Longspur's growing web of yards, berms, and marginally used urban lands continues Longspur's pledge to return unused, undeveloped parcels of land to native permascape — creating habitat where it is most scarce. This pollinator planting was done in commemoration of National Pollinator Week in June. Watch it grow the rest of this summer and in seasons to come! And stay tuned for the unveiling of the brand new mural + learning events!

Longspur Embarks on a New Chapter

The Longspur Prairie Fund is proud to announce that it will set forth on a new chapter as it has been newly established as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

LPF has been fiscally hosted for the past several years by the Impact Foundation. Our organization has been honored to have the staff at Impact as its mentors and collaborators. The depth of its organizational programming, the strength of its fundraising efforts, and the products of its community partnerships would not have been possible without their support.

Our Board of Directors

Dwight Mickelson, President
Andrea Williams, Vice President
Gary Larson, Treasurer
Dr. D. Bryan Bishop
Dr. Jill Hamilton
Coralie Wai
Jonathan Rutter
Olivia Bain



Our Mission: The Longspur Prairie Fund is dedicated to fostering the experiences, insights, and pleasures found in the native landscapes of the Red River Valley by way of advocacy, education, and conservation. We respect farmers, hunters, business owners, their properties, and their communities. We protect native plants, animals, habitats, and their ecologies. We teach the wisdom of the prairie through the arts and sciences. We restore native landscapes and preserve them for all time.