



THE LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIPS

The LPF Bee Hunt Joins National Pollinator Week

LPF is proud to announce that our **Fifth Annual Bee Hunt** will take place during National Pollinator Week, on **22 June 2019**. National Pollinator Week was established 12 years ago with unanimous approval from the U.S. Senate as a necessary step towards addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. The LPF Bee Hunt can be found on the official map of events at www.pollinator.org.

Find out more about the LPF Annual Bee Hunt:
longspurprairie.org/bee-hunt

LPF Sponsors Northern Plains Food & Farming Conference

In January, LPF sponsored the Northern Plains Food & Farming Conference, an event designed to connect community members working to build sustainable food systems across the plains and beyond. Our executive director, Dr. Peter Schultz, also served as a conference panelist on pollinator habitat creation and protection.



Eastern Phoebe; Photo: Alberto Lopez

Architecture for the Birds Exhibit Coming to The Plains Art Museum

LPF—in collaboration with NDSU Architecture & Landscape Architecture, the Plains Art Museum, the Office Sign Company, Contour Design Studio, Craig Larson Landscape Architects, Engage BUILD, and studio BIRKE—is proud to announce the opening of this year's Seventh Annual Architecture for the Birds Exhibition! The show opens **28 March** and closes **24 August** in the Starion Bank Gallery at the Plains Art Museum. There will be a public awards ceremony **8 May, 11:30 AM**. It's an event not to be missed! Architecture for the Birds is the result of a design challenge posed to students in the Department of Architecture at North Dakota State University. The challenge? *(cont. on page 2)*





Brown-belted Bumble Bee; Photo: DB Bishop

Get Involved & Stay Tuned!

Walk-in Access Program

Two LPF sites are open to public hunting and scientific study 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!

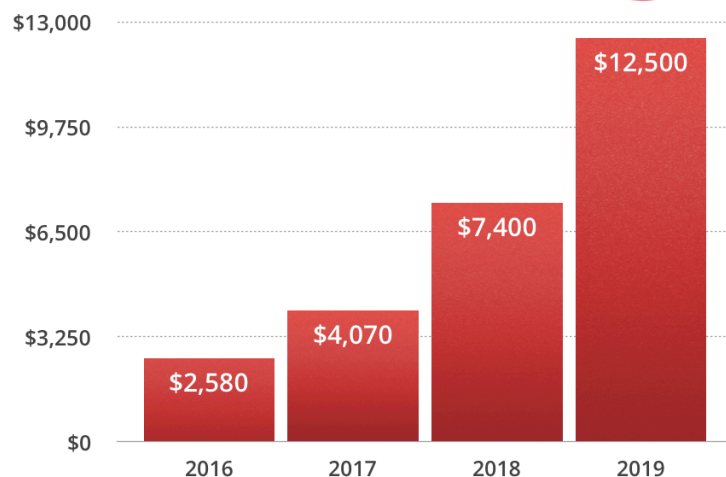
Read all about it:
longspurprairie.org/news

Announcement: The Fourth Annual Slug Run has been cancelled. **Please join us for the Fifth Annual Bee Hunt on June 22nd at Ulen Prairie!**

(cont. from page 1) Research, analyze, and interpret a structure designed by a Pritzker-Award winning architect; come to a deeper understanding of the architect's philosophy; incorporate this understanding into a house's design; design and build a livable house. The clients? Local birds known to nest in human made bird houses. The students were asked to consider their bird's favored environment, nesting habitat, spatial needs, numbers of family members and patterns of use — all issues necessary for the effective dwelling design. Architecture for the Birds is a pedagogical exercise rooted in environmental stewardship, community collaboration, and a passion for design. Join us!

A Giving Hearts Day Success Story

The generosity of our community members and their commitment to the natural heritage of the RRV is awesome! Once again, Longspur saw an incredible outpouring of support on **Giving Hearts Day**, stretching past our \$10,000 goal to an outstanding **\$12,500!** Our special thanks go to all of our matching gifts donors who helped our first \$5,000 in gifts **DOUBLE**. Every single dollar donated stays right here in the High Plains — creating habitat, educating our community, and preserving our native landscapes for all time. A lifelong impact.





LPF Site 2 - Mahnomen; Photo: J. Whittaker

On Site | Mahnomen Prairie

Longspur's Site 2, the **Mahnomen Pollinator Prairie**, is near Mahnomen, MN and consists of **306 acres**. It is the largest outdoor "bee lab" in the state of Minnesota, with a seed mix specifically designed to facilitate the study of our region's pollinators. The site is owned by the Impact Foundation. The site's 306 acres join the Wambach SWMA, the Santee Prairie SNA, and the Rush Lake SWMA to create a unified habitat of over 4,000 acres. Restoration on Site 2 began in the fall of 2014. Seeding was completed in the spring of 2015. The site is now open -- free to the public -- all year long, sunrise to sunset, with the exception of hunting season. During season, the site is open to all responsible hunters. Please carefully follow Minnesota Walk-In-Access Program guidelines and always wear hunter's orange.

Longspur's Site 2 - Mahnomen is part of the **Minnesota Prairie Restoration Plan**, pushing the boundary of the Mahnomen County Coordinated Landscape Management Area south towards Mahnomen proper and connecting key pieces of USFWS land to the HWY 59 prairie corridor.

The majority of the parcel has now been planted with a grass and flower mix specifically designed for pollinator habitat in accordance with MN DNR best management practices.

Prairies Built for Pollinators

What makes LPF's Mahnomen Prairie a perfect site for supporting pollinator habitat?

Take a look at key considerations for selecting areas for pollinators from the **Minnesota Board of Waters & Soil Resources**:

- 1) Look for areas away from pesticide and fungicide use, as well as areas that lack widespread disturbances that may impact pollinators.
- 2) Habitat complexes and corridors provide "safe zones" and natural passageways for pollinators, as well as nesting and forage sites, and sources of water.
- 3) Some bees have a relatively small flight distance and benefit from having water and food sources within 200 feet of nesting sites.
- 4) Ground nesting bees benefit from planting clump forming native grasses.



Photo: J. Whittaker



LPF Site 6 - The Mickelson Micro-Prairie

Prairie Spotlight | Moorhead Micro-Prairies

The Longspur Prairie Fund is proud to continue on its mission of restoring land to native prairie, acre by acre and foot by foot!

With more and more of our community members living in areas defined by urban sprawl, small-scale urban conservation sites can address a lack of access to educational green spaces, can improve knowledge of our native landscapes, can cultivate the understanding of our natural resources, and can inspire more citizens towards micro-restoration. By planting species native to Minnesota of local origin and genotype, all the benefits of a fully articulated prairie site can be brought out with the tiniest plots, from habitat creation to improved air quality and runoff reduction.

There are three sites currently enrolled in the LPF Micro-Prairie Program, two at private residences and a pair of plots at the Rourke Art Gallery + Museum on Main Avenue. The Rourke Art Museum micro-prairie was the first site in Longspur's pledge to return unused, undeveloped parcels of urban land to native habitat. The plots were planted in collaboration with **Minnesota DNR** and the **Becker Soil & Water Conservation District**.

Every Acre Counts: Yards for Prairie!

Want to make a difference?
Support a real ecological program where you live?
Provide habitat for wildlife? If the answer is "YES!" then let's talk about converting part your lawn into a micro-prairie! Micro-prairies are small parcels of land planted with native grass and flowers. They are very inexpensive. Once established, micro-prairies require no upkeep, no maintenance, and no water. Micro-prairies provide habitat for insects, birds, and pollinators. And they're beautiful!

Ready to sign up?

Email Dr. Peter Schultz at schultz@longspurprairie.org



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.