



THE LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIPS

Minnesota Land Trust Project Update

Last update, we had some exciting news on a 200+ acre wetland restoration project in Stearns County. We are proud to announce that in addition to partnering with **MLT**, LPF will be in collaboration with **Stearns County NRCS**, **BWSR**, and **FSA**. We're thrilled to have the expertise of these amazing partners for this project. Stay tuned for technical maps and further updates at longspurprairie.org.

More Homeowners Planting Micro-Prairies in Moorhead

Transform your yard into habitat! The LPF micro-prairie installation team has been busy planting brand-new pollinator plots in Moorhead. Did you know that fall is the perfect time to seed for native prairie? Many prairie wildflowers have a built-in dormancy mechanism that prevents them from germinating until favorable conditions are achieved. Overwintering is the best way to allow for better germination in the spring. Reach out to LPF if you're interested in advice or assistance in establishing your micro-prairie for next fall!

Contact us:
schultz@longspurprairie.org



Photo: C. Peterson

Tent Fest Celebrates 5 Years in Ulen

A record number of nature enthusiasts, artists, ecologists, music lovers, campers, and craft beer aficionados returned once more to a 160-acre parcel of restored tallgrass prairie just outside of Ulen for the Fifth Annual Tent Fest. Participants came to traverse the land, to watch the sunset, to enjoy great music and local beer, and to support the protection of our natural landscapes.

Every year, Tent Fest allows campers to enjoy our natural legacy as it was meant to be enjoyed: no cars, no traffic, no concrete, no nonsense. Just the wild, in all its glory. This year was an exceptional event with steadfast supporters returning and new partnerships making it the best year on the prairie yet. *(Continued on p. 2.)*





Get Involved & Stay Tuned!

Longspur is on Facebook!

Can't wait for the next quarterly newsletter? Stay tuned to all the latest and greatest from Longspur on Facebook!

Follow us at:
facebook.com/longspurprairie

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

(Continued from p. 1.) As always, **Nature of the North** was with us to stoke our love for the wild, to help us connect with one another in the great outdoors, and to put on a stellar tent parade! Campers rocked out to special acts, **Hot Lunch** and **Jantzon**, who both performed amazing sets. As always, special thanks goes out to **Livewire** for providing incredible audio support, making sure the show would go on — even with a torrential bout of autumn rain!

This year, we were joined by the amazing crew at **Disgruntled Brewing** out of Perham, MN as our official drink sponsor, providing amazing craft brews. We were also joined by the incredible team of **Gathered Boutique Rentals and Events** who provided the coolest and most luxe of lounge tents to sit, relax, and visit with our fellow campers.

Our most sincere thanks go to all of our Fifth Annual Tent Fest partners for making this event — and this year-round conservation and habitat creation — happen: Moorhead Ace, Wild Terra, Nature of the North, and Disgruntled Brewing.

Save the Date - Giving Hearts Day 2020!

Mark your calendars for **Giving Hearts Day - 13 February**! It's the most generous day of the year in the Red River Valley! And the most important for the Longspur Prairie Fund to raise donations to support conservation in the High Plains year-round! **This one important day funds our operation for the whole year.** We hope we can count on your Giving Heart next February! Stay tuned at: longspurprairie.org





LPF Site 7 - 8th Street Micro-Prairie; Photo: C. Smith

On Site | The Eighth Street Micro-Prairie

In collaboration with local businesswoman, **Christine Jaeger**, **Jeff Knight**, has completed a stunning new mural featuring the rusty-patched bumblebee and purple prairie coneflower at LPF'S 8th Street Micro-Prairie site just south of Nichole's Fine Pastry and Goin' Postal in Fargo. The newest addition to the plot showcases the gorgeous potential that can be found in interdisciplinary collaborations in conserving pollinator habitat. With a kaleidoscope of color from the prairie below and an equally striking artistic display above, the visual impact of the site multiplies.

To enhance the interactivity of the experience and to provide learning opportunities about native landscapes and species, information panels will be installed in the Spring. A special opportunity also exists on-site for explorers young and old in a brand-new geocache, developed by the incredible **Gia "GiaCaches" Rassier**. There is no need to disturb the prairie to locate the cache, but remember - stealth will go a long way in ensuring this cache stays in place for all to enjoy. If you'd like to read more about this special addition to the site — and get some tips for spotting the cache: geocaching.com/geocache/GC8AG7X_fmgt-native-prairies

Fall Hunting on LPF Prairie Sites

Both the **Ulen** and **Mahnomen** LPF prairie sites are currently open for legal hunting seasons now through May 31 thanks to the **Minnesota DNR Walk-In Access** program. Individuals with a WIA validation can hunt from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

- Please take care of the land. Respect boundary lines, do not damage property, and do not leave garbage. Pack out spent shotgun or rifle casings.
- Park along the roads allowing room for farm equipment in the fall.
- Constructing or erecting blinds, stands, or other structures is not allowed. Portable structures are ok, but be sure to take them with you when you go.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on site.

You must purchase a WIA Validation to legally hunt WIA Sites.

Purchase WIA permit:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/walkin

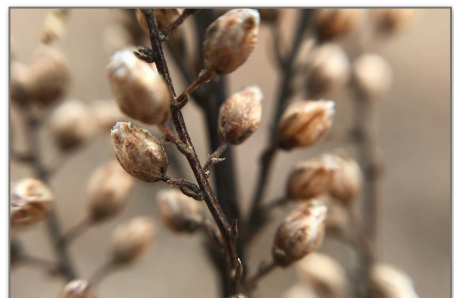


Photo: C. Rutter



LPA Pollinator Gardens

Prairie Spotlight | Lake Park Audubon Elementary Pollinator Gardens

Last winter, we teased an LPF partnership with **Lake Park Audubon Elementary**. Led by the incredible Kathrina Aune O'Connell, LPAE's sixth-grade class set out on a Pollinator Garden project launched by a **National Geographic** educational grant.

With broad support from **Audubon Dakota, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, Pheasants Forever, Cormorant Sports Club, Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**, the **LPA Legacy Foundation**, and **LPF**, the students collected data on local prairie genotypes, analyzed scientific literature, created a plan for a pollinator garden, and led the entire school in the planting process of 1,000 pollinator plugs. This award-winning project has literally transformed the space in the short space of a year, creating habitat for thousands of new pollinators. The students will continue to learn from and be inspired by this space season after season as the plantings establish and the insect populations increase. Way to go Lake Park Audubon!

This Season, We're Grateful for YOU!

As we enter this holiday season, we at LPF want to take the opportunity to extend our thanks to those we are most grateful for... YOU!

Everything we do at LPF would not be possible without our steadfast supporters, our champions of the wild, our lovers of bees and tall grasses. Your continued dedication to the preservation of our natural landscapes and of the creatures that call them home continues to humble us.

So, from the bottom of our hearts: We thank you.

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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.