



# THE LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

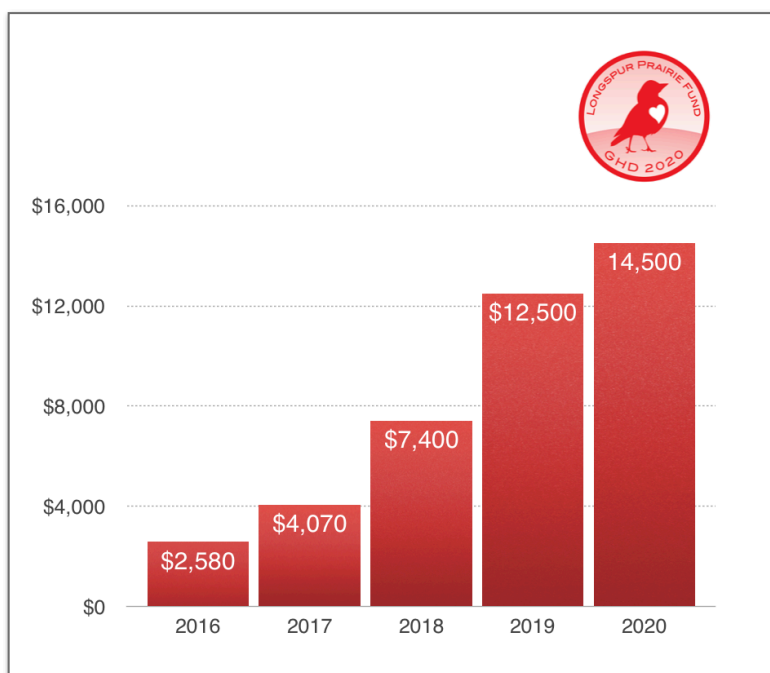
### PARTNERSHIPS

#### LPF Welcomes A New Bee Hunt Partner

LPF is proud to announce that it will partner with the **Plains Art Museum Buzz Lab** program for the **Sixth Annual LPF Bee Hunt** at Ulen Prairie.

Buzz Lab interns engage in learning, teaching, creating, sustaining, and advocating for the livelihood of pollinators in a healthy ecosystem. They work with scientists, artists, and teachers to learn and discuss the importance of pollinators, create works of public art, and participate in gardening and research in the Pollinator Garden at the Plains Art Museum and other sites.

We couldn't think of a more perfect partner to help us teach area families about pollinator ecologies and collect data to be used by bee scholars for years to come!



### LPF Celebrates Giving Hearts Day Generosity

We are humbled and honored by the gifts of the Longspur family given on our region's most generous day of the year: **Giving Hearts Day**. On February 13th, we surpassed our goal of **\$14.5K** with the help of **17 Longspur Match Champions** who helped raise our largest match yet.

Huge thanks are due the following **Longspur Patrons** for their support, friendship, and love:

#### The 2020 Longspur Prairie Fund Honor Roll

Mike Allmendinger, Mark Alonge, Janel Anderson, (cont. on pg. 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](https://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](https://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](https://longspurprairie.org/news)

(cont. from pg. 1) Maggie Arzdorf, Olivia Bain, Denise Bakkum, Julie Barner, Holly Anderson and Dante Battocchi, D. Bryan Bishop, Julie Blehm, Scott and Carrie Brusven, Michael Bush, Julie Burgum, Dan Carey, Eric Christeson, Mike Curfman, Diane Davies-Luger, Dexter Dutton, Erik Eggers, Ron Ellingson, Jay and Bonnie Erickson, Meridee Erickson-Stowman, Lisa Ferguson, Zachary Forstrom, Ryan Fritz, Richard Gilmore, Barbara Glasrud, Heidi Goldberg, Roberta Green, Marissa Hall, Jill Hamilton, David Hamilton, Julie and Mark Haugen, Mark Hellerud and Laetitia Mizero Hellerud, Judith Hoffman, Erin Holdman, Emily Holt, Vanessa Hughes, Katie and Tom Hutchens, Arland and Willy Jacobson, Christina Johnson, Marshall Johnson, Corrin Jones-Kremer, Jeff Knight, Sandra Knutson, Bev Lake, David and Cec Lambeth, Jackie Lang, Gary Larson, Rod Larson, Todd Lee, Anna Lee, Sarah Loosbrock, Bryan Lord, Heather Maloney, Susan Mathison, Chris McCullough, Jodi Meisch, Dwight Mickelson, Shirley Montgomery, Tessa Moon Leiseth, Austin and Laura Morris, Chris Mortenson, Naomi Nakamoto, Eric and Liz Nuytten, Chris Orth, Bennett Pearson, Vicki Poels, Gia Rassier, Bracken Rourke, Jonathan Rutter, Virginia Rutter, Monique Sauvageau, William Schultz, Anna Schultz, Ruth and Roger Schultz, Bonnie Selvig, Gillian Senger, Laurie Somerville, Sally Sterk, Melane Theilen, Lucille Thrasher, Steve Travers, J. Patrick Traynor, Gerald Van Amburg, Vanita Vik-Ohlgren, Simone Wai, Sam and Coralie Wai, Jennifer Wanek, Kari Warnke, Monica Webster, Carson Wells, Paul West, Andrea Williams, Robin Williams, Carolyn Wintersteen, Barbara Worman, Paul Wraalstad, Brenda Wray, and six anonymous donors.

## Check it Out! | An LPF Micro-Prairie Expansion

Longspur's Site 3, the **Rourke Art Museum Micro-Prairie**, has grown and now consists of **three** micro-plots on the East side of the building! Seeing an opportunity for growth after the loss of an ornamental flowering tree in a high-wind storm, LPF and The Rourke teamed up again to expand The Rourke site in order to invite even more color, biodiversity, and green space into downtown Moorhead. Huge thanks go to Monica Webster for donating the native plants for this plot. Check it out as it blooms this spring!



Photo: P. Schultz



Photo: C. Rutter

## Get Ready to Bee Hunt! The Sixth Annual LPF Bee Hunt at Ulen

During a bee hunt, you will use a camera to "capture" bees in their native environment: the prairie! A bee hunt is a great way to learn about pollinator ecology as well as a great introduction to biological field science. One of the most important aspects of field work is accurate and consistent data collection and observation. With your help, we'll help scientists study where and when bees are found, the habitat type and weather conditions within which bees are found, and on which plants bees are found.

### Our schedule:

**9:00** - Meet at The Plains Art Museum Pollinator Garden for some words from the Buzz Lab interns!

**9:15** - Carpool/caravan to LPF: Ulen Prairie

**10:15** - Convene at LPF: Ulen Prairie; Words from Bee Scholar, Dr. D. Bryan Bishop

**10:30** - BEE HUNT!

**12:00** - Send off!

### Make sure to bring these things with you:

1. Water
2. Long sleeved shirts. Full pants. Head protection.
3. Bug spray and sun screen
4. A camera or phone — If you can read the line "E Pluribus Unum" from a photograph of a dime, your camera is just right!

**IMPORTANT:** If you are using a phone to hunt bees, please download the **iNaturalist** app before the event so you're ready to upload your finds!

## Micro-Prairie Kit in Development for Homeowners

With warmer temperatures comes lawn work, gardens, and landscaping projects. Why not let your spring clean-up be a help to our tiniest neighbors — pollinators?

Available later this summer / fall, LPF will offer a **micro-prairie kit** for homeowners that are ready to connect their yard to a growing constellation of micro-habitats popping up across the Red River Valley.

Inside the kit will be a **how-to guide** outlining where, when, and how to establish and maintain your micro-habitat as well as signage to designate your new site as an **official LPF micro-prairie!**

Want to learn more about how **YOUR** yard could become habitat for native wildflowers and endangered pollinators?

Reach out to **[schultz@longspurprairie.org](mailto:schultz@longspurprairie.org)** to start planning your very own micro-prairie!



Photo: H. Ehlen



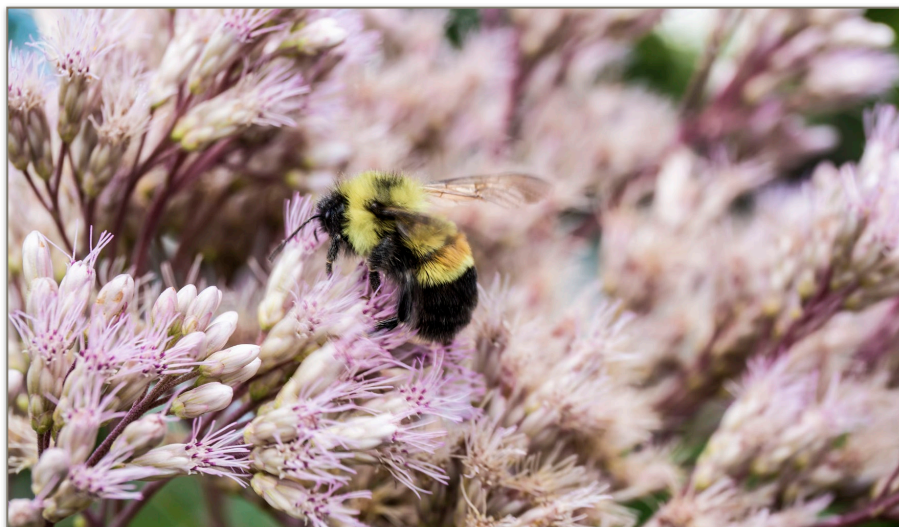


Photo: T. Ernst

## Prairie Spotlight | Lawns to Legumes

LPF is proud to feature the **Lawns to Legumes** program from **Minnesota BWSR, Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water**, and **Metro Blooms** in this season's Prairie Spotlight. This program offers workshops, coaching, planting guides, and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plants in residential lawns.

Minnesota residents can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$350 in costs associated with establishing pollinator habitat in their yards. Applications for fall 2020 projects are open through June 2.

Bees play a critical role in the productivity of agriculture and the beauty of our world through the pollination of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and flowers. The disruption of natural habitats leading to lack of "bee flowers," the widespread overuse of pesticides, and numerous bee diseases and parasites have created a health crisis for managed bees and declines in our wild bees. The global economic cost of bee decline, including lower crop yields and increased production costs, has been estimated as high as \$5.7 billion per year. For this reason, it is vitally important that we have programs like "Lawns to Legumes" to turn the tide on the depletion of our pollinator habitat and populations. Submit your application, here: <https://bluethumb.org/apply-for-lawns-to-legumes-assistance/>

## Keep Your Distance — On the Prairie!

As we navigate a whole new landscape due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic around the world, we find ourselves exploring new ways to spend our leisure time. It's more important than ever to get out of doors, into the fresh air, and take in some recreation.

Why not take a break from the house with a drive out to one of our sites enrolled in the MN Walk-In Access program? Take in the sights of the restored prairie emerging from the winter snow and taking bloom. The sites are open – free to the public – all year long, sunrise to sunset.

Check out your next adventure: [longspurprairie.org/projects](https://longspurprairie.org/projects)

## Our Board of Directors

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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.