



THE LONGSPUR PRAIRIE FUND

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIPS

Lake Park Pollinator Expansion Project

LPF has sponsored the expansion of a native wildflower garden at **Lake Park Audubon Elementary School** with the help of Audubon Dakota, US Fish & Wildlife Service, & Becker Soil and Water Conservation. This project will expand pollinator habitat and contribute to the school's ongoing nature-based programming for grades K-5.

Pints for the Prairie!

A huge thanks to **Disgruntled Brewing** in Perham, MN for hosting "**Pints for Prairie!**" on 9 November. All sales of DB's Ella blonde ale that evening directly benefited LPF and the conservation of local habitat! We can't wait for next year!

Northern Plains Food and Farming Conference 2019

LPF executive director, Dr. Peter Schultz, has been invited as a conference panelist focusing on pollinator protection and pollinator habitat restoration.

Event runs 24-26 January;
register at: npsas.org



M.Schleif Photography

The Fourth Annual Tent Fest

Just as the crispness of autumn always brings the wildflower petals to the prairie floor, the chill to the night air, and the quiet hush over the land as creatures prepare for the coming snows — autumn brought, once again, a group of intrepid campers to the LPF Ulen prairie site for the Fourth Annual Tent Fest. The nature enthusiasts, artists, ecologists, and birders descended on the 160-acre parcel of completely restored tallgrass prairie to trek the land, watch the sunset, enjoy great company, and wake to enjoy the most magnificent prairie sunrise.

Each 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. *(Continued on p. 2.)*





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



Follow Us on Facebook!
 @longspurprairie

(Continued from p. 1.) As always, **Nature of the North** was with us to ensure that everyone stayed warm, got their fill to eat, and was entertained with great local music. **Livewire** provided incredible audio support, making sure the show would go on — even with autumn wind and rain! **Wild Terra** and **Junkyard Brewing Company** were on site to provide delicious craft drinks.

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

Mark Your Calendars for SLUG RUN 2019!

We are proud to announce that the Fourth Annual Slug Run will take place on **19 May 2019** at **Gooseberry Park** in **Moorhead, MN**. The Annual Slug Run is a fun, safe, entirely FREE, nature-and-fitness centered event for regional families. With racing events that are designed for every age and every ability, the Slug Run also boasts a full festival of non-racing activities meant to foster early childhood literacy and creativity. We can't wait to see you there!





Executive Director, Peter Schultz & Assistant Director, Cady Rutter on site.

On Site | Ulen Prairie

Longspur's Site 1, the Ulen Prairie, is 3 miles west of Ulen, MN. It consists of **160 acres**. The site is privately owned. The site's 160 acres join another 1200 acres -- including the Ulen State Wildlife Management Area and over 600 acres of US Fish and Wildlife Service protected land -- to create a unified habitat of over 1,300 acres. Longspur's Site 1 - Ulen is part of the Minnesota Prairie Restoration Plan, occupying a central position as a connecting parcel in the Felton Prairie Coordinated Landscape Management Area (CLMA).

Site #1 has been fully restored and was enrolled in the Minnesota Walk-In Access Program in the Fall of 2014, (**CLAY WIA #84**). It is now open to the public.

The Minnesota Walk-In Access Program (WIA) began in 2011 and provides public hunting on private land. Through WIA, nearly 30,000 acres of private land will be open for public hunting from Sept. 1 to May 31, at 250+ sites in western and south central Minnesota. The program provides public hunting opportunities on private land that is already enrolled in existing conservation programs or lands with high quality natural cover. Please note that target practice, trapping, dog training or walking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fires, or similar activities are not allowed by the public without permission from the landowner.

Minnesota Walk-In Access Program

Both the **Ulen** and **Mahnomen** LPF prairie sites are currently enrolled in the **Minnesota DNR Walk-In Access** program. Sites in this program are open during any legal hunting season from Sept. 1 to May 31. 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





M.Schleif Photography

Prairie Spotlight | Wes Meyer

The Longspur Prairie Fund is proud to showcase its very first Arts Fellow in our Winter issue: author and poet, Wes Meyer. The featured excerpt (below) comes from Meyer's forthcoming work, ***Four Seasons***, inspired by his experiences and reflections from his time camping at LPF Site 1, Ulen for a few weeks of each season. Meyer's book will be released in **April 2019** by Theran Press. We've been honored to work with Wes and witness his commitment to the arts, the wilds, and the human spirit.

"There's an illusion of sorts on the prairie I'm fond of: When you take a moment to stand still – breeze tugging at your clothes, blades of grass swaying to-and-fro, gazing straight ahead – it seems as though all of your vision is occupied by sky. Boundless blue summer sky, wide, flat clouds drifting in the wind. Sure, if you stare at the horizon, your vision is half-and-half land to sky; yet it does not appear as such. It feels more like three quarters land-to-sky, or all sky, and your vision is invariably drawn upward. The unlimited space weighs on you the moment you step on the prairie and yet, at the same time, allows you a freedom you can't find anywhere else. It's a constant of the prairie that continues to draw me. In many landscapes, the consistency of the natural world – how the world makes us feel – is one of its greatest powers. The prairie is no different. In it, one can find a unique perspective, a unique atmosphere, a unique experience. It's impossible to replicate this experience in town, in a photograph, in video. There's no substitute for standing within it, all your senses alive, the wind and smells and sounds washing over you."

Fellowships in the Sciences and Arts

Longspur Fellowships in the Sciences and Arts were established in 2013 to provide financial support to individual researchers, scholars, and artists who are passionate about defining new ways through which we can talk about ourselves, our local ecology, and our local agriculture. LPF pays particular attention to those who directly engage the problems, processes, and pleasures unique to the Red River Valley. Awards are paid directly to Fellows and are meant to facilitate their work. Fellowships may be awarded to students, graduate students, independent scholars, or professional faculty at any stage of their careers. All researchers, scholars, and artists working within any intellectual or artistic tradition are welcome.

Learn more:

longspurprairie.org/fellowships



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.