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PETER RAVEN JOINS BOARD

Peter Raven, who was director of the Missouri Botanical Garden for 39 years and is a global leader in conservation, formally joined the PGT Board this year. He actually has been advising us for several years. Nobody is more passionate about plants and sustaining healthy biodiversity. With his help, we'll make the PGT a nature garden that thrives for generations to come. Here is Peter and his wife, Pat, (also a botanist), on a visit to collect plants.



PGT ADDS ACRES

The PGT is now 62 acres larger with the purchase of property of our former neighbor and Board member Willis Marshall, who passed away last year. That makes the overall land managed for the eventual PGT total of about 540 acres. That's a lot of trees, grasses, flowers and waters to tend!

NEW RESTROOMS

Now if you arrive with a busload of people, no need to worry about too long a wait! And as one visitor noted, “So nice to have clean, bright spaces.”

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



A half-mile concrete walking path is planned to go from the Visitor Center to Beaver Lake and also to the Lotus Ponds and back. The photo above is the type of aggregate trail surface we envision. It will make walking easier for those who can't handle uneven ground, but also be inviting to people who aren't comfortable with our more natural, mown paths. A new wood walkway at the Savanna Bluff Overlook will protect the fragile moss and lichen there, while another spot will provide a place to pause near Hillers Creek. We'll also create a paved parking and entrance loop drive for greater accessibility.

BENCHES & SIGNS

Knowing where you are and how to get where you want to go is pretty basic, but we're waiting to get the trails finalized before adding signs and other wayfinding later this year. And then we'll need to add benches at the new overlook spots. Lots of decisions ahead!

UPCOMING WALKS



Join us for the 2015 nature walks led by experts happy to share what they know as we explore the woods, prairies, ponds and streams of the PGT. You can sign up for the free walks by emailing visit@prairiegardentrust.org or calling 573-220-8660.

Bird Walk – Saturday May 2 at 7:00 a.m. led by Jim D. Wilson

Wildflower Walk – Saturday May 30 at 8:30 a.m. led by George Yatskievych

Butterfly Walk – Saturday July 11 at 10:00 a.m. led by Donna Brunet

THOUSANDS OF TREES PLANTED



Matt Barnes just completed planting 3000 new seedling trees throughout the PGT. Although we've got a great diversity of trees here both in terms of species and ages, there's still a lot to add to the landscape. In the past few years we've not only lost some great old trees to the drought and possible other causes, but also killed some fire-sensitive trees like flowering dogwoods when we did prescribe burns to enhance the woods. So 2000 of the new seedlings are dogwoods. Too bad there's no simple recipe for working with the native landscape to maximize both visual beauty and health of diverse plants and the life they support without doing some damage too!

THOUSANDS OF INVASIVE PLANTS KILLED

Killing non-native invasive plants will be never-ending. We spent about \$20,000 last year to kill bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, sericea lespedeza, multiflora rose, japanese honeysuckle. They sneak into fields and forests, but we've managed to keep them from getting a solid foothold...for now.

JOB OPENING(S)

The PGT will be looking for a new head of horticulture/native landscape manager with the departure of Jen Sieradzki who is changing her career. We may end up filling more than that one position as the PGT moves into the next phase of developing beautiful views along trails through woods and prairies, past ponds and streams. We'll need people who: know native Missouri plants (flowers, grasses, trees), have an eye for naturalistic landscape design, have the chainsaw skills to prune, thin and otherwise enhance our trees for visual interest for years to come, have three or more years of supervisory experience, are self-starters, have participated in controlled burns, can identify and destroy (chemically and otherwise) invasive non-native plants, and are ready to take on leading roles in making the PGT a gem of a nature garden in the coming decades.

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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