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## WINTER CLEANUP

Thinning the woods for healthier trees and more graceful transitions between the woods and prairie seemed like a great idea several years ago. We just didn't realize what a big, messy tangle of debris would be left on the ground. Since cedar and white oak don't rot quickly either, the mess was going to stay for a very long time. Then there were the trees damaged by ice and wind storms, along with the large, older oaks killed by the drought.

Thanks to the temporary addition of Justin and Ransom to help Matt and Jen this winter, much of the property now looks relatively "clean." A grappling hook loaned by Jamie Coe helped in hauling out the larger logs around the lotus ponds. We still have plenty of dead trees with cavities.

Prescribed burns renewed Middle Prairie and open areas near West Lake.



## SIGHTINGS

This winter Henry noticed a Harris's sparrow that showed up at a feeder and



a nine-banded armadillo by the lotus pond. Both were firsts for the PGT.



## VISITORS

Since September, we've had visits by the Missouri Native Plant Society, Audubon groups, garden clubs, a local church group, biology classes from Williams Woods University and Westminster College, and most recently the Missouri Community Forestry Council.



## SPRING BIRDWALK

Saturday April 26, 2014 at 7 a.m. we'll gather at our visitor center for the PGT bird walk led by Jim D. Wilson. It's usually a three to four-hour stroll, but you can join us for as long as you like. We walk the uplands around the ponds and prairie and then down to Hillers Creek and back up. Please email to let us know if you and others plan to attend ([lorna@prairiegardentrust.org](mailto:lorna@prairiegardentrust.org)). The following weekend the Audubon Society of Missouri will have its annual meeting with some of their field trips to the PGT.



## WILDFLOWER WALK

George Yatskievych, author of the revised Flora of Missouri, will lead a group this year for the wildflower walk at 8 a.m. on Saturday May 31, 2014. Please email Lorna if you plan to attend or for questions.



## BUTTERFLY WALK

Donna Brunet will lead the butterfly walk on Saturday August 2, 2014 at 10 a.m. Last year we saw 24 species of butterflies/moths but still low overall numbers. Topping the list were 6 Common Buckeye, 4 Giant Swallowtail and 4 Widow Skimmer. Compare that to 2010 when we saw 43 Pearl Crescent and 24 Eastern Tailed-Blues, and 13 each of several other species.

## MORE TRAILS & TREES

Jen designed and Matt cleared and helped install a new footpath at the Lotus Ponds late last summer (with the earth-moving help of David Perrey). The trail features the large rocks Herb Domke installed there when he originally built the ponds in the 1970's.



The team also added a few more bald cypress trees to enhance the view across Beaver Lake, then weeded there to reveal the cypress knees of the older trees.



In March, Matt and Justin planted 2000 dogwood seedlings throughout the PGT. More forbs will be added around Farm and Cow Ponds this year, too. New paved trails to Beaver Lake and Lotus Ponds should be in by autumn.



## **SUPPORTING THE PGT**

We have lots to do to ensure that people will be able to experience the magic of nature here for years to come. Your tax-deductible support can help immediately to fund the new trails and overlooks, as well as enhanced plantings throughout the PGT.

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