

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326

www.phctrust.org

New email address—pioneerhct@gmail.com

CPL GRANTS

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust continues to administer several Conservation Partners Legacy Grants. Craig DeJong, chair of the Habitat Committee, heads up this effort. See last fall's newsletter or visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl for more information on this taxpayer-funded program to restore & enhance wildlife habitat on public lands. Four CPL grants totaling \$235,000 (plus \$23,500 in matching local funds or in-kind contributions) have had active projects in 2019. 22 seasonal shallow wetlands were installed on Pepperton WPA.



Berms leveled & dormant seeding done on shallow wetlands created in 2018 on Rice Lake WPA. Late summer herbicide applications on cattail choked wetlands was completed on 8 WPA's in Douglas, Grant, Wilkin & Otter Tail counties.

The Pepperton WPA extravasations located SW of Donnelly. Mead Kavetter from Morris gave tour to PCHT members.



Leveling and cleanup was done on Hunters Paradise WMA, Traverse County, as follow-up to four wetland basins installed in 2018. All of this work is

extremely subject to weather and wetland conditions & and Craig is kept busy with inspections and scheduling.

YOUTH OUTDOOR ACTIVITY DAYS 2019

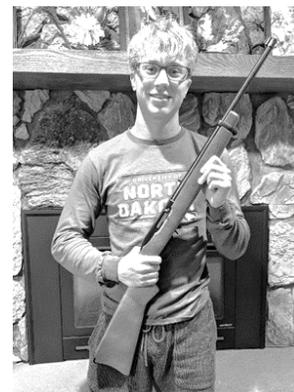
Kruger Farms

PHCT helped sponsor in Pope County the Kruger Farms Youth Activity Day in June. A new event was a presentation by the local trap club. Craig DeJong, displayed a collection of furs and awarded youth who could correctly identify a fur with a wildlife print provided by PHCT. Craig distributed 47 prints with backing & about 20 without backing. Major sponsors were DU, Pheasants Forever Turkey Foundation, & Pope County Pheasant Restoration.

Alexandria Youth Day

The annual Youth Outdoor Activity Day, sponsored by Viking Sportsmen and Douglas County Pheasants Forever as well as many other conservation and youth oriented groups, was held August 25 at Alexandria Shooting Park. The event was shortened by rain but even so was attended by more than 2200 youth. PCHT members demonstrated mallard hen nest building and sponsored a drawing for a Ruger 10/22 rifle.

To learn more about Youth Outdoor Activity Day go to www.youthoutdooractivityday.org



Mason Stewart, 17, with his rifle

PHCT is active in Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Pope Counties and the surrounding areas.

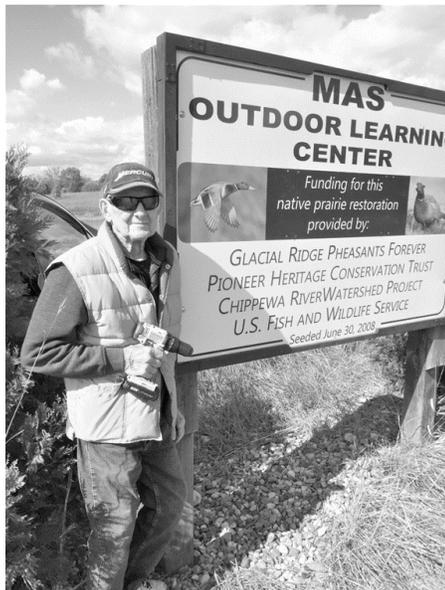
SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year PCHT accepts applications Nov. –Feb. for 4 or more post-secondary \$500 scholarships. Included are Vernon P. Ostrom Scholarship, Harvey K. Nelson Scholarship, and the Dean A. Elmer Scholarship. Applications are open to students who are or will be attending a college/university as a full-time student with a major in the field of environmental sciences. Applicants must be a resident of Douglas, Pope, Grant or Otter Tail county. The \$500 Vern Ostrom scholarship was awarded to Cassidy Joy Kubitz. She was a spring 2019 graduate of Pelican Rapids High School. She grew up on a farm near Pelican Rapids and



Cassidy Kubitz

learned the discipline of farm work. To quote a bit from Cassidy's application essay, "I'd wake up every morning and help milk the cows. After morning chores I'd help....in the field. At night I would milk the cows again. I love working on the farm....that's where my appreciation for nature began." She is attending Bemidji State, majoring in Environmental Studies. We have no doubt that she will find a great and rewarding career linked to conservation.



Bob Jones, a PHCT member, completes installation of a new sign provided by PHCT to identify the Minnewaska Area Schools Outdoor Learning Center. The Outdoor Learning Center is an important part of students' education in conservation and environmental science.



PF FUNDING POSITION

Pheasants Forever has taken the lead in recognizing the need for additional qualified staff to identify, process, evaluate, and coordinate conservation easement acquisitions in west central MN. A backlog of more than 120 potential conservation easements was identified last spring by the Fergus Falls & Morris Wetland Management Districts, USFWS. Lost opportunities to permanently protect wildlife habitat through restoration and enhancement projects on private lands appeared likely. PF created a new Habitat Project Specialist job position to help fill this need. Additional funding for the position comes from USFWS, North America Wetlands Conservation Act grant, Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and local conservation organizations. Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust has contributed to 2019 and 2020 funding as there will be direct benefits to conservation in our four-county service area. PF has hired Abigail Cyr to fill the new position. She is a PF employee and will work out of the Fergus Falls WMD office. Her primary duty will be helping to accelerate the USFWS Habitat Easement Program in the Fergus Falls and Morris Wetland Management Districts. Abby previously worked in Fergus Falls for USFWS as a Biological Science Technician and that experience has her set up perfectly to hit the ground running. A Hillman native and graduate of Hamline University, we are confident that Abby's talents will have significant benefits to our collective mission.

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust meets on the second Monday of September, December, March and June at 7:00 PM. The meetings are held in The Military House on the campus of the Evansville Historical Foundation, 304 South Gran Street, Evansville, Minnesota.

You are invited to attend!

JUNE PROJECTS TOUR

Prior to its June business meeting the PHCT Board of Directors and several members toured three Otter Tail County conservation projects funded and/or administered in part by PHCT. The tour of a shallow water wetland restoration on Doran WMA was hosted by Mike Oehler, Acting Area Wildlife Manager, DNR.



Mike Oehler, MN DNR, at right explains the construction and results of this seasonal shallow water restoration done on Doran WMA, Otter Tail County, to PHCT tour participants.

Cattails sprayed by helicopter in 2018 on Townsend WPA were shown and discussed by Erin Lentz, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, USFWS.

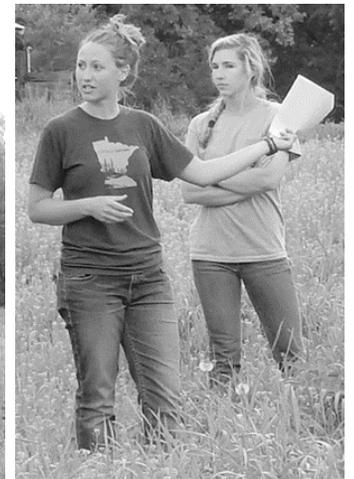
Cattails have, over the years, choked out the open water

needed by ducks and other wildlife on many wetlands in MN. 2018 helicopter spraying of herbicide on these cattails on Townsend WPA

was showing positive results at the time of the tour. Funding for spraying on eight WPA's in 2018 and six WPA's/WMA's in 2019 was funded by a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant administered by PHCT.



Lastly the group viewed a six-acre wetland restoration on which PHCT funding aided in the removal of a livestock shed from the wetland area. This FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife project on a privately owned farm was explained by Abby Cyr, Biological Technician for Private Lands, USFWS. It is "boots on the ground" inspections of successful projects such as these that help the Board of Directors measure the balance between scarce dollars and conservation project needs. Tours also help the Board determine which potential projects may be worthy of a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application.



Abby Cyr and Erin Lentz

Abby Cyr, Biological Technician for Private Lands, USFWS, and Erin Lentz, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, USFWS, explain how leadership, design, and partial funding through the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program led to this six acre restoration of wildlife habitat for a private landowner in Otter Tail County. Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust and several other conservation organizations contributed to funding the project.

2020 Officers and Directors

Andy Bye President & Director, Grant Co.

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Steve Pauly Director, Pope Co.

Bob Jacobs Director, Pope Co

Rick Banke Director at Large

Learn more about us at WWW.PHCtrust.org

Meet our new at large director, Rick Banke that was elected to the board at our annual meeting on December 9, 2019. Rick is a lifelong resident of Alexandria. He received a Biology degree from the University of Morris. For 39 years, he worked at Runestone Electric and retired from there in 2015. Rick got his appreciation of wildlife and conservation from his father who was a biology teacher, a member of DU, and was greatly involved with PHCT in the beginning years.

Happy Holidays from the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our time on earth is brief, yet the land goes on forever, carrying with it the marks of each succeeding landowner. As fleeting trespassers on land that belongs to future generations, we must touch the land gently, caring for it as true stewards, so that those who assess our record will see our love and respect for the land and life. (Robert B. Oetting)

Thinking of joining Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust? Fill out the form below and mail it along with your check to PHCT. **Already a member?** Take a look at the bottom of the mailing label on this newsletter. That's your membership expiration date. If it's prior to today's date, please renew now. **Thank you!**



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PIONEER HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

All information is for the use of PHCT only. Please make your check payable to PHCT. Mail to PHCT, PO Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326 Donations are tax deductible under IRS Code Sec. 501(c)3

New membership Renewal membership Your check number _____ Amount \$ _____
 \$30 Annual \$100 Four years \$500 Life \$1000 Heritage Other Gift

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