

# Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326

Learn more about us at [www.phctrust.org](http://www.phctrust.org)

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## Minnewaska Area School in Glenwood MN—new dock and osprey pole

The old wood dock at the Minnewaska Area School (MAS) Outdoor Learning Center was in need of major repairs. A new 67 foot aluminum Voyager dock with composite deck, 12' by 12' platform, triangular braced posts, and a ramp was installed this past summer. It will be used by the biology classes to collect pond water samples and to study wetland plant and animal ecosystems.

Mr. Wade Amundson's Outdoor Class built an osprey pole with a treated lumber platform and a metal predator guard.

MAS & Jim Wulf Ranch designed a grazing plan for the learning center. About 40 head of cattle grazed the area for most of Oct. Grazing animals such as buffalo have historically played an important role in maintaining prairie ecosystems.

The following donated towards the dock & Osprey pole: The Starbuck Fireman's Aux., Glacial Ridge Pheasants Forever, Glacial Lakes Recreation, MAS, Pope County Pheasant Restoration, Lundblad Construction, and the PHCT. Thank You!



Repairing the wood dock on senior skip day in 2013



Old dock about to be removed on community clean up day in May 2023. Pictured is biology teacher Mr. Amundson and students



67 foot aluminum dock  
Cows grazing in the distance



Biology students on the new dock and in front of the osprey pole (below)



Osprey platform about to go up on 45 foot telephone pole



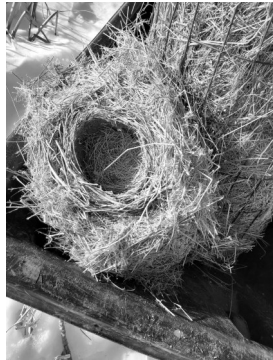
Pole is buried down 7.5 feet



## Hen House March 2023 Maintenance



Jerry Matison checking to see if mallard nest had been used



Duck nest from inside a mallard tube

Mike Nemmers & Bob Jacobs maintaining mallard nests on the ice



August 27, 2023



Lars Nelson and Rick Paulsen assisting youth

Great weather brought out 2,785 youth to Alexandria to participate in the 40+ free activities. Once again PHCT had hen house rolling as their hands on demonstration. Lars Nelson, Rick Paulsen, Rick Banke, and Loreli Westby assisted youth in rerolling 42 hen houses. Youth were also shown pictures of mallard nests and hatched eggs. These nests will be put out this late winter/early spring as shown in the pictures at the top. Be sure to mark down on your calendar August 25, 2024 for this years event date.



**Skye Norgren** a 2023 high school graduate of Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls was awarded a \$1,000 Vernon P. Ostrom scholarship by the PHCT Board. She is currently attending Saint Mary's University in Winona MN. Her major is criminal justice with a minor in wildlife biology. She would like to become a conservation officer. Her long term goal is to learn how nature works, how people interact with nature around them and how they change the environment. In her application she states "nature makes me calm. It makes life more peaceful." Skye has a great love for the outdoors.

**You are invited to attend the meetings for the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust**

PHCT meets the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM.

The meetings are held at The Military House at 304 South Gran Street in Evansville, Minnesota.



## Scholarship

Scholarships are open to students who currently are attending a college/university or will be attending as a full-time student with a major in one of the following fields: Wildlife, Conservation, or Natural Resources.

PHCT will award a one-time \$1,500 scholarship.

Applicants must be a resident of Douglas, Pope, Grant or Otter Tail Counties.

If you know of someone that is eligible please make sure they submit an application by

**May 31, 2024.**

### Scholarship Applications

can be found on the PHCT website at [www.phctrust.org](http://www.phctrust.org) under the scholarships & grants tab.

**2023 Habitat Conservation Award in memory of Joe Montonye**

**October 5, 2023**

**Grant County Shooters Association Range**

**Presenting award PHCT board member Kerry Zimmerman to son Kenny and wife Vickie Montonye**



Joe Montonye served as a director from 2015-2021. He sadly passed away on February 23, 2023. He dedicated his life protecting the water & land of our great state working for the Soil & Water Conservation District for over 45 years. He spearheaded a successful campaign to protect our lakes and streams by helping enroll 1000s of acres of filter strips. This was a voluntary erosion control program which was years ahead of the Minnesota Buffer mandate. Joe had a vision and he saw it through! He truly cared for the world in which he lived and he did more than his share to try and take care of it. He saw the beauty that nature had to offer and had a strong conviction that we needed to do something to preserve the land for future generations. Even though Joe has passed, his legacy lives on. The trees, the birds, the fish, the grass, and the lakes are better because of what Joe did with his life. **Thank you, Joe Montonye!**



Tours of the Range in rural Elbow Lake were given prior to their meeting. PHCT President Rick Banke presented a check for \$2,000 Dean Kappahn for expanding trap houses for high school trap meets and to help pay off their land mortgage for land needed to expand facility. This was given in memory of Joe Montonye.

**CPL GRANTS**

PHCT continues to administer several Conservation Partners Legacy Grants. Please visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl) for more information on this taxpayer-funded program to restore & enhance wildlife habitat on public lands.

**History of the PHCT CPL grants**

- 2012 Wetland Water Level Management—Pope
- 2013 Wild Rice Transplantation—Douglas, Pope, Grant
- 2013 Invasive Cattail Control -Stevens
- 2014 389G-1 Prairie Restoration -Pope
- 2014 Wild Rice Transplantation II—Otter Tail & Grant
- 2015 Wild Rice Transp. III -OT, Douglas, Pope and Grant
- 2015 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control-Stevens
- 2016 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail II-OT, Pope, Traverse
- 2016 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control III - Stevens
- 2017 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control IV -Meeker, Stearns, Kandiyohi
- 2016 seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control V— Douglas
- 2018 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VI –Traverse
- 2020 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VII - Grant
- 2021 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VIII— Pope
- 2021 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control IX— Kandiyohi
- 2021 Pollinator Plot Establishment—Stevens
- 2023 -Small Wetlands Enhancement I (not completed Otter Tail, Douglas)

**Thank you to the West Central Sportsman’s Clubs that support the PHCT with 10% CPL grant match donations.**

**Thinking of joining Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust?** Please fill out the form on the bottom of the back page and mail it along with your check to PHCT.

**Already a member?** *Please take a look at the date on the mailing address label on this newsletter.* If it is prior to today’s date, please consider renewing now.

**Thank you for your membership!**



PHCT invited the MN DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife staff to attend our June meeting for a meet & greet picnic of hamburgers & brats.

2023-24 Officers and Directors

Mike Nemmers	President & Director, Pope Co.
Greg Lillemon	Vice President & Director Grant Co.
Andy Bye	Secretary & Director, Grant Co.
Rick Paulsen	Treasurer
Loreli Westby	Director/Newsletter Otter Tail Co.
Craig DeJong	Director Pope Co.
Rick Banke	Director, Douglas Co.
Kerry Zimmerman	Director, Grant Co.
Ty Bentrup	Director at Large
Ray Norrgard	Director, Otter Tail Co.

Ty Bentrup was elected as the Director at Large. He lives in Alexandria & is a physical therapist. He grew up hunting & fishing in Missouri. Conservation has always been an important part of his life as an avid outdoorsman.

**PIONEER HERITAGE  
CONSERVATION  
TRUST**  
Box 337,  
EVANSVILLE, MN 56326

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)*

Cut on dashed line

**PIONEER HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

All information is for the use of PHCT only.

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

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