



Summer 2011

# The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

Working for a New Future for the Sauk Prairie on the Badger Lands



## *Behind the Fence*

### **Our Mission:**

*The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance promotes conservation of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands and the greater Sauk Prairie landscape through ecological restoration, education, research and recreation.*

*We provide opportunities for individuals and partner organizations to pursue these activities guided by the values and goals of the Badger Reuse Plan.*

### **For additional information:**

TSPCA  
PO Box 403  
Baraboo WI 53913-0403  
[www.saukprairievision.org](http://www.saukprairievision.org)

## **UW-Baraboo Proposes Community Based Service-Learning**

By Donna Stehling

UW-Baraboo professors and administrators, along with UW-Extension agents, invited several area non profits, including the Alliance, to participate in a service learning workshop on campus earlier this summer. The main objective of the workshop: to strengthen the natural relationship between the university and the community.

The workshop brought together several different groups to introduce this new community partnership idea. Besides the Alliance, potential participants included International Crane Foundation, 4-H Youth Development, Baraboo Boys and Girls Club, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, Baraboo High School, Sauk County Humane Society, and Hope House.

UW-Baraboo staff Randy Stoeker and Michael Jacobs defined service learning, while Assistant Professor of English Frances Auld spoke about the transition from community service to service learning--creating community opportunities for students to receive academic credit for learning course-related skills. University staff and administrators mean to maintain academic rigor and establish learning goals for students while meeting specific community objectives.

Sauk County UW-Extension Agents Jenni Walsh and Jenny Erickson spoke about components of service learning and community initiatives as well as resources available.

Aware of curricular objectives, community partners talked through lunch about potential individual, small and large group projects which provide a solid student experience that allows individuals to develop skills. Although some professors have had classes participate in community projects, their goal is to do more. They will re-think the role of instructors, address variances in student outcomes, incorporate established service learning standards and develop communications among all involved. Partners must clearly define the position and expectations, provide training, work space, materials, and a supervisor.

This will be a fall semester course enhancement, followed by an evaluation.

The Alliance is currently discussing its role in this new collaboration, with possible opportunities ranging from archival management to marketing to educational outreach and leader training. Please stay tuned for updates as this exciting new partnership opportunity unfolds! ❁



## Volunteer Spotlight!



They've been with the Alliance since the beginning, spreading the vision of a restored Sauk Prairie at volunteer workdays, field trips outings, and at community events. They've played tug of war with honeysuckle,

been caught in poison ivy, and pulled more invasive plants than you can shake a stick at!

But Alliance volunteers Donna and Bill Stehling have also nurtured the native prairie plants popping up on the Hillside Prairie, they've helped local students grow in their knowledge of Badger's natural and cultural history, and have contributed countless hours at meetings to help determine the future of the plant. In addition, they are also active with the Bluebird Restoration Association, which monitors bluebird nest sites within Badger, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ferry Bluff Eagle Council, UW Extension, and Sauk County Board of Supervisors.

Donna and Bill were honored for their service with the Alliance at the Alliance's March Annual Meeting. They were presented with "Gold Star" awards by Board members Mimi Wuest and Alison Duff following a presentation outlining their good work!

Our thanks to all our volunteers, members, sponsors, and friends! Your contributions of time, talent, and financial support help us continue to bring the community vision of a restored Badger to the Sauk Prairie.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, contact us today with your skills and interests, or visit our website for more details:

[www.saukprairievision.org/get\\_involved](http://www.saukprairievision.org/get_involved).

There is a role for you at the Alliance! 🌱

# WANTED

## Dame's Rocket

*Alias: Sweet Rocket, Dame's Violet*



With its sweet name and lovely looks, this plant may seem attractive, but it spreads quickly and forms dense infestations. This four-petal plant produces pink or purple flowers on a 3-4 foot stem, and is often confused with phlox, which has five petals. Because it produces a lot of seed, it often ends up in wildflower mixes, so be sure to read your labels!

Flowering plants should be bagged to prevent seed distribution.



*For landscape planting alternatives, please consider: woodland phlox, blue columbine, or native bee balm.*

Yes, I would like to support a sustainable future for the Badger lands and the greater Sauk Prairie landscape with my tax-deductible gift of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me a poster.

Members joining or renewing at the \$50 level or higher are eligible to receive a poster of Victor Bakhtin's painting, *Sauk Prairie Remembered: A Vision for the Future*.

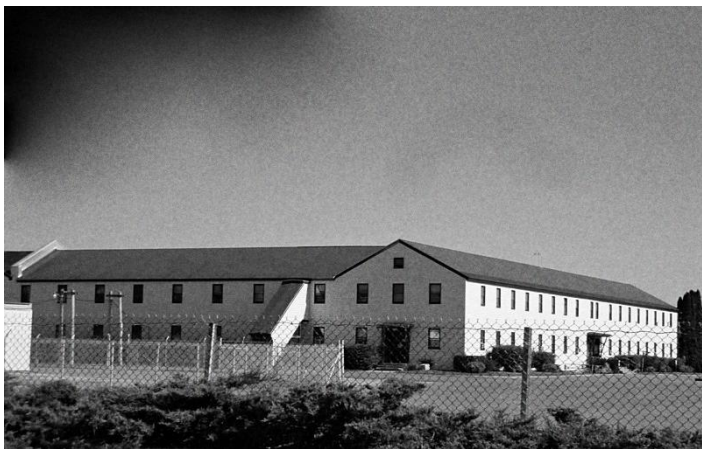
Please make checks payable to TSPCA. Thank You!

## We've Moved!

Administration Building 200 at the former Badger Plant has been the Alliance's home base since we began our restoration work there in 2002. It was the second building to be completed and occupied at Badger soon after Army began construction there in the spring of 1942; only ten months later, the first production area at Badger went into operation.

Once considered as a possible location for an eventual cultural center celebrating the history of the Badger lands, Building 200 will be removed later this year as this land parcel transfers to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Alliance office is now located in Building 207, retained by WDNR. Our move to this new office space came at the end of June when several volunteers showed up to clean, pack, and reorganize! Volunteer Ashley Hannah stated:

*Move day was, as moving always is, hard work, but with the help of the volunteers it went very fast! We even had time to put in some lights and do some organizing in the new building...and got a lot more done than was expected. It was also interesting to see the inside of the administration building at Badger. I've driven past it hundreds of times and have always wondered what went on inside it. Getting the chance to go inside and see not only a part of Badger's past, but what it had been used for after the plant stopped producing munitions was kind of exciting!*



Our many thanks to Ashley, as well as Donna and Bill Stehling, Dave Tremble, Tim Moermond, David Serafy-Cox, Joan Fordham, Bill Wenzel, Joel Evert, and Alison Duff for helping with this transition! 🌱

## Field Notes



The Alliance held its Annual Meeting at the River Arts Center in March, featuring the Aldo Leopold inspired film *Green Fire!* The theatre was packed, with folks staying after the film for discussion with Leopold Biographer and Alliance member Curt Meine.



Volunteers are hard at work, burning brush at Moely Prairie and the Hillside, cleaning up trash at Fordham Prairie, and pulling piles of invasives! Our season runs thru November, so come on out to the prairie...join us for three workdays, and earn a volunteer t-shirt!



We've been making the rounds...at the Sauk County Earth Day Celebration...at a meeting for the Stewards of the Dells...as part of UW Madison's International Symposium on Society and Resource Management tour...at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center! If you'd like to schedule a speaker or event, please contact us today!



TSPCA, PO Box 403, Baraboo WI 53913

**NON-PROFIT**

Baraboo, WI  
53913



*To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,  
One clover, and a bee,  
And revery.  
The revery alone will do,  
If bees are few.*

~Emily Dickinson

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

Summer Newsletter 2011

## Prairie Remnants...

Join in to make a difference this summer with **REI** and the Alliance as we offer opportunities to help you get outside and get active in your community! Join us on July 28 at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center for a presentation on Badger's ecological treasures, and then again on August 13 for a service project at Badger! All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.rei.com/madison](http://www.rei.com/madison).

The **Sauk Prairie Riverway Gallery & Cooperative** is the working name for a proposed venture that will bring area artists and conservation organizations, the Alliance included, together in one space to share their respective visions with the public. The group has been meeting over the past year to identify common interests and concerns; a feasibility study and business plan will be prepared before the end of this year. You can get a sense of what the Riverway Gallery & Coop will look like by visiting the current display at the Eanelli Building on Water Street in Prairie du Sac, just north of the Masonic Lodge, during the Second Saturday open house each month.

As part of the Alliance's **Education Through Restoration Program** for the 2010-11 school year, area students volunteered nearly 1,000 hours in support of restoration efforts at Badger! If you would like to help lead student groups out to Badger beginning this fall, please contact us today!

We are on the search for a few items that would help make our new office space more organized and usable by our staff, volunteers, and friends! Please take a look at our online **Wish List** and send us an email if you are able to donate any of the listed items: [www.saukprairievision.org/newsroom\\_press\\_release](http://www.saukprairievision.org/newsroom_press_release). Thank you so much! 🌻



*We acknowledge and thank our 2011 Visionary Sponsor!*