Fall Semester

Seed Collection

Every fall semester the Reclamation Club collects native prairie seed from the campus's Rountree Prairie. The seed that is collected is used in classes and re-seeding the prairie. The Rountree Prairie is a mesic prairie that is dominated by tall grasses and forbs but has been invaded by native and non-native woody species from the surrounding land. Some of the native grasses and forbs of this prairie are big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). In the future, a restoration project will be in order to improve the biodiversity of the campus prairie by restoring and enhancing the ecosystem in and around Rountree Prairie. This will promote the health of the native plant and tree species. One native tree species currently present in the prairie is a burr oak (*Quercus macrocarps*). The burr oak is in the oak family and can be identified by its rounded leaf lobes with the center lobes cut nearly to the midrib. The invasive species currently present in the prairie are native poplar and willow, and exotic locust. Treatment of these invasive species is essential for a healthy prairie. Treatment may include chemical and/or physical processes in order to successfully remove these invasive woody species from the prairie. Burning is another option of control but may not be very effective if used alone. A prescribed burn is conducted almost every spring on this prairie yet the invasive still persist. A combination of treatments will most likely be the best option for the Rountree Prairie.
**Internship Presentations**

The Reclamation Club hosts an informational meeting every fall for students to learn about summer internship programs. This event is open to all Reclamation majors or other closely related majors. This year we had six club members present their internships during our bi-monthly meeting. Some internships held by reclamation students included: Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Services, BHP Billiton in New Mexico, Applied Ecological Services in Illinois, the City of Dubuque’s Engineering Department, and Rusk County Land and Water Conservation Department. After each presentation, students are encouraged to ask any questions they may have or for further explanation of the presenters experience. Information is also given out on how to apply for these internships and where to find additional internships.

**Reclamation Apparel**

Over that past year there has been an increase in students majoring in Reclamation as well as joining the Reclamation Club. This increase in popularity has brought with it the desire to advertise the club around campus. So this year, new apparel was created for all students, alumni, staff and supporters of the Reclamation program. Many designs and clothing options were discussed. The final product was a simple design of the Reclamation logo on each of the chosen clothing articles. The club took a vote and decided on a dark green zip-up fleece, grey sweatpants and white beanie hats. The new apparel was sold to those that ordered during the semester and will be sold again this coming year to anyone wishing to support the club and the major.
Spring Semester

New Shed

The Reclamation Club along with the Horticulture Club received a new storage shed this year. The old shed was weathered and unfit for the equipment and gear it housed for the two clubs. The new shed is split into two sides and houses all the burn gear and equipment the Reclamation Clubs needs for the year.

Prescribed Burn Certification

Reclamation Club coordinated with the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council and a nearby technical college to provide a prescribed burn class to its members. This class was intended for any student interested in becoming prescribed fire certified. The training met the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council standards and focused on safe and effective control of prescribed fire.

There were ten students from the Reclamation program that attended the class this spring. Students paid for the class out-of-pocket but travel expenses were covered by the club. The Reclamation Club hopes to have more involvement next spring to continue sending students to this very beneficial class.
Prescribed Burns

During the spring months, the Reclamation Club works with local land owners to conduct prescribed burns on their properties. The club holds an annual meeting every spring for those students in the program that would like to participate in a burn that year. All students are to wear the required burn safety gear and carry a water pack during any prescribed burn. Students learn how to use burn equipment like flappers, brooms, and rakes to control fire rather than their water packs. For each prescribe burn, a burn plan must be written and submitted to the county NRCS department for approval. This gives students a chance to get familiar with writing burn plans for different properties. Before every burn the objectives are gone over and a contingency plan is formed in case conditions change. This spring the Reclamation Club conducted two prescribed burns on a current professor’s property, totaling 6.25 acres. This burn was a great learning experience for new Reclamation Club members and freshmen of the major. A third, 11.5 acres burn, was done at a property just outside of Ellenboro, Wisconsin. These prescribed burns gave students a chance to experience how fire reacts to environmental conditions and how to respond to control it.
CDE Wildlife Contest

On March 29th, the UW-Platteville campus and the Agriculture Department hosted the annual FFA Career Development Event (CDE). The Reclamation Club was responsible for administering both a written and practical exam for the wildlife/natural resources portion of this skills test. Members of the Reclamation Club volunteer their time organizing questions for the exams, helping with the setup, administering the event, and cleanup. This year the contest brought in over 2,200 high school students from 98 different schools around Wisconsin and the tri-state area. The two exams combine questions about wildlife and natural resources as well as identification of plants, animals, equipment used in the field, and environmental practices and agencies. Students at UW-Platteville feel this event gets the word out to high school students about the Reclamation program and club.
Tom Hunt Retirement

Thomas Hunt was a Professor in the UW-Platteville School of Agriculture and the Director of Reclamation, the Social and Environmental Justice Program and the Research and Outreach of Pioneer Farm. He served as the advisor to the Reclamation Club since 1999. Dr. Hunt graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S. in soil science, a Masters’ in landscape architecture, and a Ph.D. in land resources from the Gaylord Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. He took Sabbatical this past school year and retired May 2012. Dr. Hunt is now employed full-time at Applied Ecological Services (AES) in Brodhead, Wisconsin as the Director of Science.

Meet the Officers

**Everett Grosskopf**-President

*Hometown:* Appleton, WI  
*Year:* Senior  
*Favorite thing about REC Club:* Prescribed prairie burns during the spring  
*What I like about UW-Platteville:* Smaller campus size and campus green space  
*Hobbies:* Hockey, Outdoors, Traveling  
*Favorite food:* Strawberries!  
*Ideal job:* Restoring brownfield in cities to usable land once again

**Brian Fure**-Vice President

*Hometown:* Cassville, WI  
*Year:* Senior  
*Favorite thing about REC Club:* The prairie burns where there is always good company and we are the ecological practices in action.  
*What I like about UW-Platteville:* That the campus has many clubs/teams to participate in that allow you to interact and compete with a variety of individuals across campus and the nation.  
*Hobbies:* Hunting, Canoeing, Fishing, Bowshoots, Volleyball and Basketball  
*Favorite food:* Chocolate chip cookie or cookies in general  
*Ideal job:* Working on sites that need remediation/management to help create and implement plans, and see the project through to the finish where you can see the results of your efforts.
Ethan DeWitte—Secretary
  
  Hometown: Cassville, WI  
  Year: Junior  
  Favorite thing about REC Club: Taking part in prescribed burns and working with the Prairie Enthusiasts  
  What I like about UW-Platteville: The friendly environment and people  
  Hobbies: I like the outdoors, Hunting, Fishing, Boating, Snowmobiling,  
  Favorite food: Roast Beef  
  Ideal job: Working with a construction/restoration company doing work on rivers and streams.

Kayla Boeding—Treasurer
  
  Hometown: Hopkinton, IA  
  Year: Senior  
  Favorite thing about REC Club: The monthly meetings, getting together to discuss anything and everything.  
  What I like about UW-Platteville: I enjoy the small class sizes and the amazingly helpful professors.  
  Hobbies: Kayaking, Nature Walks, Tumbling, Fishing  
  Favorite food: Strawberries!  
  Ideal job: My ideal job would be working in the field with trees and helping to restore forests.