FREE Community News

Prairie Farm Dairy Days 2025 A Celebration of Community Spirit

#### By Brianne McLennan

The small town of Prairie Farm is gearing up for its annual Prairie Farm Dairy Days, set to take place from Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13, 2025. This beloved weekend event promises a delightful mix of tradition, entertainment, and community engagement, drawing locals and visitors alike to celebrate the area's rich heritage and tight-knit spirit.

### Friday, July 11

The festivities begin on Friday at 6 pm with the Prairie Farm Club Tractor Pull at Pioneer Park, featuring two sleds! This classic event sets the tone for an exciting weekend.

### Saturday, July 12

HayRiver

The tractor ride meets at Pioneer Park at 9 am, with an entry fee of \$20 per tractor, including lunch. Hay wagon riders are also invited for \$10 per person. Riders are encouraged to pre-register by July 8 by contacting Jim Lewis (715-308-2623), Roger Link (715-308-2163), or Kurt Blise (715-790-2081).

The Randy Roemhild Memorial Tournament at Panther Park will kick off at 9 AM. This 14U softball and baseball event offers a \$150 team entry fee, with prizes,

"Spirit" cont'd. on page 2...

(Right) The Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club never misses an opportunity to have some fun in the sun! *Photo submitted by Cindy Miller* 



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REVIEW

July 2025

(Above) Hay River Quilters will be celebrating their 27th "Quilts Along the River" Show during the Prairie Farm Dairy Days, July 12 and 13. The theme this year is Scrapping Along the River! *Photo submitted by Kathy Potter* 





See weapons of the past, along with knights engaging in combat.

# Ren in The Glen 2025

#### By Barry Houlehen

Ren in the Glen, a medieval fantasy faire in the Town of Glenwood, is back for their 15th season with a weekend of knights, fairies, magic, music, dance, quests, merchants, and enchanted fun.

July 26 and 27, a glen in St. Croix County will be transformed into a magical place of revelry where visitors can immerse themselves in a time long gone and a world of myth and legend. With four entertainment stages, the faire offers musical groups, dance troupes including belly dancers and Morris dancing, a fire-breathing dragon, and magicians—including the infamous Pizpor Show with its not-quite magical "magic."

"Ren in the Glen is a familyfriendly event," said owner Cory Schroeder, "but adults will find plenty of fun, as well. We strive to make it a faire that everybody can enjoy, from tots and teens to adults of all ages." There will be a wide range of food and soft drinks at the food court, including burgers, barbecue, turkey legs, chicken, mushrooms, candy,

The Knights of the Shire will arrive at the Glen to engage in their armored combats for honor and glory, while the mystical Faerie Court will gather for dancing, music, stories, a special play called The Wish Thief, and a very special quest for kids. There are four different quests for adventurous patrons to undertake-both kids and adults-the Jester's Ouest, The Lost Shadow Quest, The Dryad Quest, and the Riddle to Rune Quest, all of which take patrons around the Glen in search of clues, mysteries, and mythical creatures.



Four entertainment stages will host belly dancers, Morris dancers, musical groups, and more. *Photos submitted by* 

Barry Houlehen

INSIDE

lemonade, tea, and root beer, with plenty of options for vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free patrons. The Glen will be entirely filled with over 90 merchants selling a vast array of hand crafted wares including

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Having FUN at the BARRON COUNTY FAIl







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Recreation

**County Fairs** 

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Hay River REVIEW Prairie Farm, WI 54762

PRSRT STD ECRWS U.S. Postage Paid Prairie Farm, WI Permit No. 5 "You send me love letters in the moon," the night said to the sun. "And I leave you my answer as tears upon the grass." — Rabindranath Tagore

Farmstand

pg. 11

### Hay River REVIEW July 2025

### ..."Spirit" cont'd. from front

food, and drinks. Interested participants can sign up by contacting Michael Roemhild (michaelr@boyceville.k12. wi.us).

Prairie Farm High School will also host a Beef and Dairy show at 9 am, sponsored by Prairie Farm FFA Alumni. Those interested in showing should contact Brittany Selkow (715-418-9095) or Megan Rassbach (715-418-0892)

The Hay River Quilters show will be at the new location, the Prairie Farm Community Center, from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, contact Connie Huber (715-455-1874).

At noon, Pioneer Park will host the highly anticipated Duck Race, with upwards of \$1000 in cash prizes. Duck sales began Memorial Day weekend and can still be purchased from Cindy Miller (715-296-7869) and other civic club members.

Gosnell's Packer Inn will host a Bean Bag Tournament at 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$10 per person, and you can bring your own partner. This year, \$200 will be added to the winnings! Contact Bart or Ann Gosnell (715-455-1369).

New this year, the Prairie Farm Fire Department and Dallas Ambulance will sponsor a Demo Derby in Pioneer Park at 4 pm. Admission is \$10, and questions should be directed to Ture Duden (715-607-0547) or Cody Lindemer (715-205-8073).

The friendly competition continues with the Randy Roemhild Memorial Wiffle Ball Tournament at 6 pm at the Prairie Farm Village Field. The tournament's proceeds benefit the Bonnie Roemhild family.

### Sunday, July 13th

The weekend concludes on Sunday with a Pancake Breakfast at the Prairie Farm Fire Hall at 7 am, with proceeds supporting the Prairie Farm Trap Team.

At 11 am, United Lutheran Church will hold an outdoor ecumenical church service with music by Phil Ungrodt and Sam Bowman. This will be followed by a free-will offering lunch featuring BBQ sandwiches, pie, and ice cream.

The Hay River Quilters Show continues at the community center from 10 am to 3 pm, with a drawing at 3 pm.

The day includes a Concession Stand at the Ambulance Garage, managed by Dallas Ambulance and the Prairie Farm Fire Department, and the popular Rootbeer Floats at the Fire Hall by PF Peppy Pals from 11 AM onward. The Kids Pedal Pull at 2 pm is closing the weekend at the Fire Hall, sponsored by the Prairie Farm Fire Department and Dallas Ambulance. This event introduces a new class this year for ages 4 and under, as well as classes for kids ages 5-12 and 13-17. Event goers can also enjoy a bouncy house and an adult pie-eating contest. Sign-ups are available at the Pedal Pull table, with Mike Carlsrud (715-790-0178).

### A Community Effort

Prairie Farm Dairy Days 2025 is a testament to the town's collaborative spirit. Events are sponsored by local groups such as the Prairie Farm FFA Alumni, Dallas Ambulance, and the Prairie Farm Fire Department. From tractor pulls to fireworks, this weekend offers something for everyone, fostering a sense of unity and pride. Mark your calendars and join the celebration in Prairie Farm from July 11 to 13, 2025!



The duck race is slated for July 12 at noon. Tickets still available! *Photo submitted by Cindy Miller* 





officehayriverlutheran@gmail.com



Teams of four can register for \$40. Sign-ups are available through Michael Roemhild (michaelr@boyceville.k12. wi.us).

Music lovers can enjoy a live performance by Three on a Tree at Gosnell's Packer Inn from 7 to 10 pm, setting the stage for the Randy Roemhild Memorial Fireworks at 10 pm, lighting up the Prairie Farm Village Field sky in a spectacular display.

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	REVIEW	

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### **Newspaper Policy**

The Hay River Review is published monthly by the Hay River Publishing Cooperative. The Review reports community news and promotes the exchange of ideas in order to enhance the quality of life and to encourage community participation.

The Review is always looking for stories of community interest. If you have a story idea or tip, please contact Cassandra Kyser at editor.hayriverreview@gmail.com. Submit letters and articles to: the same email or by mail to HRR, N12638 County Rd Q Downing, WI 54734. Articles may be edited and are published at the discretion of the REVIEW.

The Review welcomes readers' viewpoints. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Unsigned letters will not be printed. The REVIEW reserves the right to edit letters or delete parts of letters with defamatory or unsuitable content. Letters are published at the discretion of the Review.

# **Ridgeland Historical Park Receives County Recognition**

### **By Betty Glaser**

Members of the Ridgeland Historical Park Group were recently honored to learn that our beloved Historical Park-located adjacent to the Ridgeland Area Library-has been named History Project of the Year by the Dunn County Historical Society.

The Society recognized the **Ridgeland Historical Park** for its outstanding efforts in preserving and presenting the rich history of Ridgeland and the surrounding area. With its unique garden setting, the park features over 500 native plants, public art, and informative historical displays-all of which contribute to a strong sense of community pride and place.

We were thrilled to see a feature article and photo of the park included in the Society's semiannual newsletter. What an honor to be recognized by such a respected organization!

### **Spring Brings New Additions** and Displays

With spring in the air (and fingers crossed for warmer, drier weather!), we're gearing up for our annual spring

Sept. 26th

Services, 215 Power St, Amery, WI

Issue

August

October

September



Preserving our history starts here in our community with our diligent volunteers. Photo submitted by Betty Glaser

cleanup. In the meantime, we're excited to unveil a new outdoor display in the park that highlights Ridgeland's past barbers and telephone operators. And yes, keep an eye out-you just might see a tribute to Joyce Wirth working the old circuit board, tangled cables and all! It's a fun and nostalgic look into the everyday lives of our community's past residents.

As part of the ongoing renovations at the library, we're also wrapping up work on our Historical Room. A new wall-mounted display

has been installed, and we'll soon be adding two enclosed display cases with locking doors to protect and showcase valuable artifactsmany of which have been generously donated or loaned by local community members.

### **Help Us Preserve Ridgeland's** History

We're excited to announce a new effort to record personal stories and historical

information about Ridgeland and the surrounding community. If you grew up in the area-or have stories, memories, or photos to share, we would love you to join us at the library on Thursdays from 3 to 5 pm, or we can make other arrangements to meet with you!

Christopherson is on hand during those hours and is happy to chat, answer questions, accept donations, and now record your stories. These recordings will be entered into the WILS Database. WILS (formerly Wisconsin Library Services) is a non-profit membership organization that facilitates collaborative projects and services to save its members time and money to advance library service, primarily in the state of Wisconsin. This national, searchable database will allow people from across the country to learn about Ridgeland's rich past straight from the people who lived it!

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a meaningful afternoon of storytelling. Together, we can keep Ridgeland's history alive for generations to come.



Local historian Lon

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**PUBLISHING DATES** Ad Due **Copy Due** July 25th July 24th Aug. 22nd Aug. 21st

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Sept. 25th

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### Hay River REVIEW July 2025

# **Barron County Recreation Plans for the Future**

#### By DM McLennan

More residents and visitors are stepping outside as interest in biking, walking, camping, and fishing continues to grow throughout Barron County and Northwest Wisconsin. Whether it's a walk through on a trail or a weekend spent camping by the lake, outdoor activities remain a popular choice for staying active and spending time with family.

Winter brings its own appeal, as snowshoeing and crosscountry skiing gain popularity across the region. Although recent years have brought lighter snowfall, enthusiasm remains strong. Trails like the Ice Age Trail continue to attract outdoor enthusiasts when conditions allow, with many areas accessible year-round.

Opportunities for recreation are plentiful in Barron County. From the wooded trails of the Blue Hills to fishing and camping on Red Cedar Lake, the region offers a wide range of natural attractions. Local bike and walking trails have seen increased use, and community members are making the most of the area's diverse outdoor options.

The Barron County Parks and Recreation Department

has played a key role in supporting this growth. Over the past decade, the department has focused on improving access to outdoor spaces and upgrading public facilities. In recent years, campgrounds including Waldo Carlson Park and Vet's Park have seen updated campsites, improved restrooms, new picnic areas, and upgraded boat docks.

A central project in 2023 has been the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Plan. Developed in partnership with the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the plan aims to improve safety and accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians by mapping routes through lower-traffic areas. Tyler Gruetzmacher, a conservationist with the department, said the plan reflects a growing demand for safe, connected outdoor spaces.

Looking ahead, the department has launched its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for 2025–2030. The initiative outlines long-term strategies to enhance parks, trails, and recreational opportunities across the county. Last month, a community survey was distributed to gather feedback from residents about their outdoor priorities. Tyler noted that the results will be discussed during planning discussions later this year, as a meeting should become available to attend.

The CORP is also a critical requirement for securing federal and state grant funding, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which has supported over 46,000 recreation projects nationwide. An updated CORP, aligned with Wisconsin's Statewide **Comprehensive Outdoor** Recreation Plan (SCORP), ensures Barron County's eligibility for grants to fund outdoor recreation projects and accessibility improvements. Recent county initiatives, like the 2023 bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plan, demonstrate our commitment to leveraging such funds to enhance community spaces without overburdening local budgets.

The Barron County Parks and Recreation Department encourages residents to stay engaged in shaping the future of outdoor recreation in Barron County. Public input remains a vital part of ensuring that local amenities continue to meet the needs of the community.



With biking becoming more popular, local organizers are working to create more space to enjoy.



Accessibility efforts do not end after land is made available and the trail is cut. Maintenance of trails and signage still requires attention.



A freshly groomed cross-country skiing trail is a welcoming sight to some in the winter months. *Photos submitted by Tyler Gruetzmacher* 





Serving hot beef sandwiches, macaroni salad, calico beans, cookies, and water. Hot dogs will also be available. **Free will donation** 



Morning Service: 11:00am Kids 4 Truth and Teen Group: 5:30pm during school year Evening Service: 7:00pm

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# Ridgeland American Legion and Auxiliary Plan for Flag Retirement

### By Betty Glaser

The Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 and Auxiliary Unit 511 are planning to host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on August 19 from 5:30 pm to 6 pm in the Village Park. This event will be held during the Farmers Market.

The Flag Ceremony consists of the proper and respectful disposal of American flags that are no longer in a condition to be displayed. This solemn and dignified event honors the American flag and all it represents, ensuring that retired flags are handled in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code.

Community members are encouraged to bring their worn or damaged flags to the American Legion for inclusion in the ceremony. A Flag Collection box is currently available at the Ridgeland Community Center.

The ceremony will include a brief program explaining the significance of the flag and the retirement process, followed by the respectful burning of the collected flags. Local veterans, community members, and youth groups like the Boy Scouts may participate.

During the event, the Auxiliary Unit will also host an information table to share details about membership opportunities. This is a great chance for community members to learn more about how they can get involved and support veterans and their families.

The Auxiliary is also raising funds for the Wreaths Across

America program, which honors veterans by placing wreaths on their graves each December. This year's ceremony will take place on December 13 at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in Spooner. A special offer is available: for every wreath purchased at \$17, a second wreath can be added for just \$12, offering \$5 savings and doubling the impact of each donation. You can donate anytime at the Security Bank in Ridgeland.

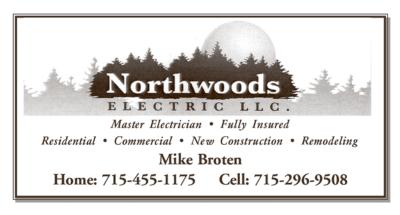
All are welcome to attend this meaningful tribute to our nation's symbol and support ongoing efforts to honor our veterans. For more information or to donate a flag for retirement, contact Post 511 Commander Michael Steffe or Auxiliary President Becky Steffe.

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# Challenge Accepted

By Barbara Kurschner Bender

In last month's issue of the Hay River Review (June), Curt Klefstad highlighted a tribute to three friends who formed an inseparable bond. In his closing, he wrote, "So here's my friendly challenge: If you started school with at least three in your class, can you match the milestones we've hit? Long marriages, lifelong friendships, and uncanny coincidences—our bond has stood the test of time."

We cannot exceed Curt's number, but we can equal it— Geneva Neck, Dolores Allram,

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship July 6th- We welcome Bishop Halom from the NW Synod of WI

Communion July 6th & 20th July 13th- Dairy Days BBQ Lunch & Ice Cream Social following Worship

Pastor Sara Feld (715) 455-1454 ulcprairiefarm.com <u>Virtual Worship Options</u> Phone-in: 534-444-4222 Facebook Live: Facebook.com/ULCPrairieFarm also uploaded after worship is finished



#### and I, Barbara Bender.

It all started in first grade at Parkman School. We attended all eight grades there and four years at Prairie Farm High School, graduating in 1954. Geneva and I have been together more often through the years, taking a fourteenday bus trip through Texas and other southern states a few years ago, but Dolores has not been to our many class reunions as she lives in St. Paul, MN. I cannot provide a picture of the three of us, as Curt did, but I just wanted to respond to Curt's Challenge.

Those were the "Good Ol' Days".

### Hay River REVIEW July 2025

# Looking Ahead to Barron and Dunn County Fairs **Rides, Ribbons, and Roots**

### **By Brianne McLennan**

County fairs are cherished summer events in our region that bring together residents of Barron and Dunn Counties for days of family-friendly fun, agricultural showcases, and community engagement. These fairs, deeply rooted in the region's heritage, offer a blend of entertainment, education, and competition that appeals to all ages. For readers, these events are perfect opportunities to celebrate local talent and traditions. Here's a detailed look at what the 2025 fairs have in store.

The Barron County Fair, scheduled for July 16-20, 2025, at the fairgrounds in Rice Lake, touts "Summer days, Country ways", bringing the county together since 1877. With an estimated attendance of 30,000, the fair is a significant draw for the region, offering a variety of activities that highlight local agriculture and community spirit. Visitors can expect midway rides, a tractor pull, harness racing, a demolition derby, and the Barron County Pro Rodeo as key grandstand events. The Junior Livestock Show is a highlight, showcasing the hard work of young exhibitors in 4-H and FFA programs. The fair also features two stages of entertainment, with national and regional acts in genres like country and variety, alongside 18 food booths offering classic fair treats. Daily highlights feature Gizmo D. Robot and The Juggler with Yellow Shoes, with educational stops at the Ag Adventure Tent and Youth Expo Building. Grandstand events like the tractor pull, demolition derby, and Barron County Pro Rodeo thrill crowds, while the Spectrum Carnival, Fairtime Chapel,

and glass-blowing demos entertain folks of all ages.

Admission is \$6 daily or \$20 for a season pass for adults (16+), \$3 daily or \$10 season for kids (6-15), with free entry for kids five and under and free entry for kids 15 and under on Thursday; parking is free. The 2024 Fairest of the Fair, Isabella Lyste, a Barron High and Poskin Jets 4-H alum, will be present, with the 2025 Fairest crowned Sunday. Exhibitors and vendors can register online by early July. The Barron County Fair Association aims to provide an affordable, safe, and educational environment, with opportunities for exhibitors to display everything from livestock to baked goods. For those interested in participating, registration deadlines for arts, crafts, and food vendors are set for early July 2025, with fair entries managed online through the fair's website.

Meanwhile, the Dunn County Fair, taking place July 23-27, 2025, at the Dunn County Fairgrounds in Menomonie, celebrates "Stars, Stripes, and Summer Nights" with a rich history dating back to 1885. This event features a packed schedule of entertainment, including live music on a free stage, carnival rides, a truck and tractor pull, Red Cedar Races, vintage stock car races, and a demolition derby. Competitive exhibits, livestock shows, and sales are central to the fair, with youth and adult exhibitors showcasing their skills in categories outlined in the updated 2025 Junior and Open Class/Senior Exhibitor Fair Book, which includes new classes and revised rules. A new highlight for 2025 is the to participate in a fun, lowpressure competitiondetails and registration are available on the fair's website. Another fresh addition is the Planter/Container **Decorating Contest**, inviting organizations to get creative and showcase their designs. The fair encourages community involvement through sponsorship opportunities, with details provided in a flyer on their website. Free parking, \$5 admission, or a \$15 season pass make the Dunn County Fair accessible, with kids six and under admitted free.

Both fairs reflect the agricultural heart of Barron and Dunn Counties while offering diverse entertainment for families. The Barron County Fair emphasizes large-scale grandstand events and a strong 4-H presence. At the same time, the Dunn County Fair highlights its long history and new youth-focused initiatives like the Cloverbud Stuffed Animal Show. For our readership, these fairs are a short drive away and offer a chance to connect with neighbors, support local youth, and enjoy summer traditions. Check www. barroncountyfair.com and www.dunncountyfair.org for schedules, entry forms, and updates as the dates approach.



The sanctioned kids' pedal pull will take place Thursday, July 17, at 4:30 pm.



The wide variety of animals can be seen daily at the fair, and it is an excellent time for all ages!



"Having fun at the Barron County Fair" Photos by Noah Marach



Second Annual Cloverbud Stuffed Animal Show, designed for young children

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# Remarkable Career in Rural Medicine

#### By Brianne McLennan

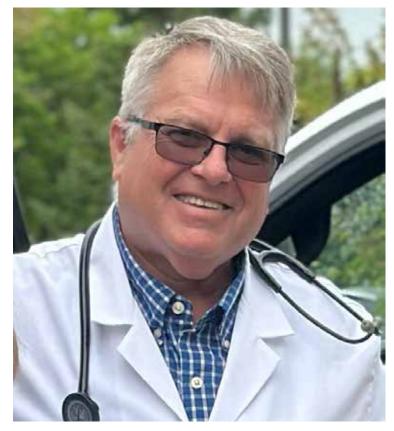
After decades of caring for the people of Barron County, Dr. Richard Sampson is hanging up his stethoscope, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, dedication, and quiet heroism. As a family physician, medical leader, and community pillar, Dr. Sampson's career has touched countless lives, from delivering newborns to guiding families through their final moments. As he steps into retirement, we take a moment to celebrate his extraordinary contributions to Prairie Farm and beyond.

Dr. Sampson's journey to Barron County began in 1993, driven by a twist of fate. Originally set to practice in Elbow Lake, Minnesota near where he grew up and completed a rural rotation

during medical school-a change in Minnesota's healthcare policies prompted him to look eastward. An opening at the Midelfort Clinic (now part of Mayo Clinic) in Barron caught his attention. The role demanded a broad scope of practice, including obstetrics, inpatient care, emergency medicine, and outpatient servicesperfectly suited to the skills he honed during residency. For a young doctor raised in a small town of 600, Barron County felt like home.

One of Dr. Sampson's fondest memories is his time at the Prairie Farm clinic, where he spent Thursday mornings for many years. The small clinic, with its limited resources, offered a slower pace and a tight-knit atmosphere that reminded him of his father's solo practice. "I grew up in a town similar to Prairie Farm," he shared, "so I related well to the patients and staff." He speaks warmly of colleagues like Jill Paulson and Janelle Picnell, whose teamwork made those days special. The closure of the Prairie Farm clinic by Mayo was a heartbreaking moment for him, a testament to his deep connection to our community.

Dr. Sampson's commitment extended beyond the clinic. As his career evolved, he took on leadership roles, including Medical Director at the Prairie Farm nursing home, where he held the staff in high regard. "It was a sad day when the nursing home closed," he said, reflecting on the quality of care provided there. His practice naturally shifted toward chronic disease management and geriatrics, a reflection of his aging patient panel and his ability to adapt to their needs.



Dr. Sampson proudly exits Mayo Clinic on his last day of service to the community. *Photo submitted by Brianne McLennan* 

Rooted in his own rural upbringing, Dr. Sampson found serving Barron County's small communities to be a natural fit. "A family doctor's effectiveness is tied

pan. Add onion, bell pepper,

to the relationships they build," he said. His ability to connect with patients, grounded in shared cultural values of rural Wisconsin

#### "Career" cont'd. on page 13...



# **IRON** SKILLET

### By DM McLennan

Look no further if you're searching for a simple yet flavorful skillet dish for your next home-cooked meal. This fantastic dish pairs perfectly with any meat and comes together quickly. Many of our favorite meals come The Iron Skillet is a collection of recipes handed down through the years. Cast iron adds a rustic touch to meals and is always an excellent choice for home-crafted dishes.

## Savory Corn Casserole

from a simple, easy-to-make cast iron recipe. Make great meals and help yourself to a simplistic kitchen clean up. Grab your favorite 10-inch cast-iron skillet, and let's dig in!

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 small bell pepper, diced
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon sweet paprika

1 1/4 cups milk, any percentage 15 ounces fresh or frozen corn kernels (about 3 cups) 1/2 cup white or yellow cornmeal 3 large eggs 1 cup finely shredded cheddar cheese 1/2 cup heavy cream

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Melt butter in a 10-inch castiron skillet over medium heat, allowing butter to coat the sugar, salt, paprika, and cayenne. Cook, stirring, until the onions begin to brown, about 10 minutes. Add the corn and continue cooking, stirring frequently, until there is no more water in the skillet, about 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the cornmeal slowly and remove from the heat.

Whisk together eggs, milk, and cream in a small bowl, then pour into the corn mixture. Stir well to combine, sprinkle with cheese, and bake until softly set, about 20 minutes. Broil until lightly browned, about 1 to 2 minutes. Broiling will help finish the cooking time and give you a beautiful golden brown finish.

Cast iron is an excellent kitchen tool. Its ability to evenly distribute heat ensures meals cook more thoroughly and provides an excellent non-stick surface. But perhaps the best part is the easy cleanup. After cooking, add water and a pinch of dish soap to the pan, then place it back on low heat while you eat. This makes for a simple cleaning process. Once you're done, be sure to dry the pan entirely by heating it until all moisture is gone, then lightly re-oil it. There are many great cast iron oils on the market, but a great choice is always flax seed oil. This oil has a high flash point and has a great deal of durability in higher-heat cooking applications. I tend to season my cast iron pans more often than not, but a light coat after cooking will go a long way!

In the past, using dish soap was discouraged because it contained lye, but that's no longer a concern. Modern dish soaps are usually mild enough for gentle cleaning. Allowing your pan to soak with light soap in water on low heat is typically sufficient to break up any left-behind food, but this is not always the case. Another excellent tip for scrubbing away stubborn food is to use coarse salt and water. Apply a light coating of salt to the pan, add warm water, and scrub lightly to remove any residue and leftover food.

— Join the Celebration! When: Saturday, August 2nd, 2025 Where: Exit 45 Restaurant and Bakery, 2100 County Road B, Menomonie, WI

**Plainview School Reunion** 

### Time: 11:00 AM

— Calling All Alumni!
Join us for a memorable day of nostalgia and connection! The event is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, see new faces, and celebrate the spirit of Plainview.





Paid for by the Prairie Farm School District.

It is the policy of the School District of Prairie Farm that no person may be discriminated against in any program or activity as required by s.116.13 Wis. Stats.

### Principal's Report

Page 8

The district wants to thank all of our students, community, and staff for another great school year! We had a great month of May and end of the 2024-2025 school year with multiple awards banquets, field trips, concerts, graduation, and a trip to state track. Thanks to all the parents and community members for the support during these final events.

Graduation took place at 7:00pm on Friday, May 23rd in the large gym. The ceremony went extremely well and we appreciate all the efforts made by the graduates, families, and staff to hold this important event. Thank you to all who attended this celebration of the class of 2025. We wish the class of 2025 the best of luck as they embark on their new adventures.

The district kicked off its summer school program on June 9th. The session will run through June 26th with a field trip to Skyzone trampoline park to finish the session. There are about 80 students in grades PreK-8 enrolled in the session this summer and students have been participating in a number of enrichment activities.

The POW'R strength and conditioning program is currently running on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings from 7:00-8:30. Any student in grade 6-12 is welcome to attend.

The FCCLA national qualifiers are gearing up for their national competition in Orlando, Florida in early July. We wish the participants and advisors safe travels and the best of luck at this competition.

The annual activities code meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8th. Any student grades 6-12 interested in participating in athletics or co/curricular activities should attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by the district office, or contact me at fossum@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us or 715-455-1861.

Sincerely, Casey Fossum Pre K-12 Principal School District of Prairie Farm 715-455-1861 ext. 258

### From the Superintendent

We are just about halfway through our 3- week summer school program. We have had approximately 75 students participating in our summer learning opportunity. A special thanks to our entire summer school staff for their dedication and hard work to make this a wonderful learning experience for our students.

We are busy with various updates and some new projects around the district this summer. Our maintenance staff is busy working on summer cleaning and maintenance. They are also working on some updates to our high school wing and the ELA room. We will be installing new flooring, ceiling, and lights to this learning space. We will also be repainting the walls and updating the speaker system to the ELA room. We are planning to repaint all of the door frames in the high school wing and the doors and frames in both gyms. The next item on our list is to spray patch, crack fill, and restripe all of our parking lots. We hope to sealcoat these areas over the next few years. By creating a maintenance plan for these areas, we hope to preserve the existing pavement for several years.

We are looking forward to seeing the ground break on the Prairie Farm Area Veterans Memorial. This memorial will be placed on the southern end of the green space in front of the Prairie Farm School. We are all planning on this project starting this summer, with the first phase of the project to hopefully be completed by Labor Day weekend. For more information on the memorial or ordering a memorial marker go to: www.pfamericanlegion.com

Lastly, the Prairie Farm School District is looking for bus drivers. We are in need of a full-time route driver, a shuttle driver for practices between Prairie Farm and Clayton, and also substitute bus drivers. All training can be completed on site. If you know of someone that might be interested, please have them contact the 715-455-1861 with any questions.

Thank you for your continued support,

Corey Berghammer cberghammer@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us Superintendent 715-455-4219



#### SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING June 16, 2025—6:00 p.m.—IMC

### MINUTES

A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Nelson, Hansen, Roemhild, Miller, Cadman, Richards, Bates Members absent:

Mission Statement: The Prairie Farm School District in partnership with family and community provides educational experiences which foster academic excellence, lifelong learning and citizenship.

### **FULL-TIME ROUTE DRIVER**

# SHUTTLE DRIVER (driving athletes from Prairie Farm to Clayton school for afternoon practices)

### SUBSTITUTE DRIVERS

### Please contact Corey Berghammer at 715-455-1861 to learn more

### **Emergency Closing Information**

The District will utilize our automated calling system to alert families of school cancellations and delays. If you are not receiving the automated calls, emails, or text messages, please contact the schoool office. We will be also notifying the radio and television outlets. B) Pledge of Allegiance

C) Adopt Agenda

Motion by Hansen to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

D) Minutes of May 19th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Cadman to approve the minutes of May 19th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.

E) Reports

- 1) Athletic Director's Report-Alethea Seeger
- 2) Update on the Prairie Farm/Clayton co-op
- F) Business
  - 1) Public comment residents/parents
  - 2) 2025-2026 (FY26) preliminary budget
    - Motion by Hansen to approve the 2025-2026 (FY26) preliminary budget, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
  - 3) General liability, auto, property and worker's compensation insurance for 2025-2026
    - Motion by Richards to approve the general liability, auto, property and worker's compensation insurance for 2025-2026, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
  - 4) WIAA membership for 2025-2026

Motion by Nelson to approve the WIAA membership for 2025-2026

5) Lakeland Conference membership for 2025-2026

Motion by Bates to approve the Lakeland Conference membership for 2025-2026, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

- 6) Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) membership for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the Wisconsin Association of School Boards membership for 2025-2026, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 7) Northlakes Community Clinic Agreement for 2025-2026 Motion by Richards to approve the Northlakes Community Clinic Agreement for 2025-2026, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 8) SAGE/AGR report
- Motion by Nelson to approve the SAGE/AGR report as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 9) Approval of hiring an elementary teacher pending final enrollment numbers Motion by Hansen to approve hiring an elementary teacher if needed, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 10) Capital Improvement Plan Motion by Richards to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 11) Student fees, season passes, and food service prices for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the student fees, season passes and food service prices for 2025-2026, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.
- 12) Alternate Compensation Plan for 2025-2026 Motion by Cadman to approve the Alternate Compensation Plan for 2025-2026, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 13) Prairie Farm Employee Handbook for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the Employee Handbook for 2025-2026, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.
- 14) Student/Parent Technology Handbook for 2025-2026, technology repair procedures and cost, and the technology replacement schedule Motion by Cadman to approve the Student/Parent Technology Handbook for 2025-2026, technology repair procedures and cost and the technology replacement schedule, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 15) Elementary Teacher Resource Packet for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the Elementary Teacher Resource Packet for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 16) Elementary Student/Parent Handbook for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the Elementary Student/Parent Handbook for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 17) MS/HS Student/Parent Handbook for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the MS/HS Student/Parent Handbook for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 18) MS/HS Teacher Resource Packet for 2025-2026 Motion by Nelson to approve the MS/HS Teacher Resource Packet for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 19) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$200,876.92 Motion by Bates to approve payroll check deposit as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Roemhild abstained.
- 20) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$171,303.44, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$109,487.15 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$37,585.20 Motion by Nelson to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 21) Committee and other reports, information or comments
  - a) summer projects and possible purchase updates
  - b) strategic planning-Troy Gunderson
- c) schedule a communication and engagement committee meeting
- 22) Future meetings, Monday, July 14th, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
- 23) Motion and roll call to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of support staff, supervisors and teaching staff employees under which the Board has jurisdiction. Motion by Nelson to go into closed session at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
  - Roll call: Cadman yes, Bates yes, Miller yes, Richards yes, Nelson yes, Hansen yes, Roemhild yes
- 24) Roll call and return to open session Motion by Nelson to go into open session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Cadman. Motion carried. Roll call: Miller yes, Bates yes, Hansen yes, Richards yes, Cadman yes,
- Nelson yes, Roemhild yes
- 25) Resignations

### Elementary and Middle School Supply List

### **PK-5 Elementary**

Non Skid Tennis Shoes to Keep at School for Phy-Ed

### **Pre-Kindergarten**

1 Change of clothes in Ziploc bag

**Regular-Big Kid Sized Backpack** 

2 Heavy Plastic Two Pocket Folders

**4x6 Framed Family Picture** 

1 - Box Crayons

**3 Glue Sticks Beach Towel** 

1 - Box Markers (Classic Colors)

1 Box Kleenex

### Kindergarten (No names on supplies)

Large Bath Towel for Rest Time

Paint Shirt (old t-shirt works)

Headphones - No Earbuds

1 Box Kleenex

1 - Box Crayons

**Crayola Watercolor Paint Set** 

2 - Wide Lined Notebooks

**Change of Clothes in Ziploc Bag** 

1 Box Markers - Thin

Supply Box 9" x 5"

- 10 Pencils (not plastic or glitter coated)
- 3 Glue Sticks

Scissors

1 - Zipper Pencil Pouch to Fit in 3 **Ring Binder** 

3 - Plastic Folders with Metal

Prongs (green, yellow & blue)

- 2 1"Three Ring Binder (white) 1 - Box Color Pencils Large
- Backpack

### Grade 1

- **4- Pocket Folders**
- 1 Pkg. Pencil Top Erasers
- 1 1" 3 Ring Binder
- 1 Box Crayons
- 1 Box Markers (Classic Colors)
- 9x5 Supply Box
- 3 Wide Ruled Notebooks (Spiral)
- 1 Box of Kleenex
- 1 -Bar Eraser (Pink Pearl)
- 3 Glue Sticks
- 10 #2 Pencils (not plastic coated)
- **Backpack Paint Shirt**



### Grade 3

1 - Wide Ruled Notebook (Spiral) Scissors Headphones - No Earbuds 1 - Box Crayons **Zippered Pencil Case** 2 - Folders 2" Three Ring Binder 3 - Glue Sticks 1 Box Markers - Wide 1 - Large Box Colored Pencils 1- Package of Tip Erasers 3 Pkg. - Pencils

### 1 - Box Kleenex

### Grade 4

Please No: 3 Ring Binders or Trapper Keepers, Mechanical Pencils or Pens

- 4 Wide Ruled Notebooks
- 2 Pocket Folders
- 1 Box Crayons
- Zipper Pencil Case (No Pencil Box)

2 Highlighters 3 - Glue Sticks

- 1 Pkg. Pencils with Erasers
- **Earbuds or Headphones**
- 1 Box of Colored Pencils Scissors

### Grade 5

- 6 Notebooks Ruler (12 inch - 30 cm) Calculator 1 - Box Crayons, Markers or **Colored Pencils** 1 - Pkg. Pencils Scissors 9 - Pocket Folders **Earbuds or Headphones**

a) Casey Nolde, Business Education Teacher, effective June 3, 2025 b) Briana Hanson, CubCare Employee, effective June 9, 2025 Motion by Richards to approve the resignations as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

26) Contracts

a) Torrie Litomsky, MS/HS Secretary for 2025-2026

b) Laura Christianson, Leadership Co-Advisor for 2025-2026

c) Alethea Seeger, Leadership Co Advisor for 2025-2026

d) Laura Christianson, Assistant Cross Country Coach for 2025-2026 school vear

e) Jody Workman, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for 2025-2026 school year f) Krista Amundsen, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for 2025-2026 school

vear

g) Casey Fossum, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 2025-2026 school year

h) Jeff Luoma, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 2025-2026 school year

i) Brittany Effertz, Assistant Middle School Volleyball Coach for 2025-2026 school year

j) Valerie Fall, Winter Cheer Coach for the 2025-2026 school year

Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.

27) Possible action from items in closed session

No action taken

28) Adjournment

Motion by Bates to adjourn, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

Grade 6, 7, & 8 1- Highlighter Headphones - No Earbuds Scissors Grade 2 Grade 1 - Box Crayons 2- Pkgs. #2 Pencils 1 - Bar Eraser 1 Box Kleenex 4 - Wide Ruled Notebooks (Spiral) Earbuds Headphones - No Earbuds 4 Highlighters 1 - 1" Binder **Zippered Pencil Bag (No Pencil** 7th Grade Box) 1 - Bar Eraser & 2 Pkg. Tip Erasers Teacher) 4- Pocket Folders of Dif erent Calculator **Colors / Designs** 3 - Glue Sticks Punch Scissors

5 - Single Subject Notebooks

1 - 1" 3 Ring Binder

1 - Composition Notebook for 8th

1 - Box of Colored Pencils

1 - Pkg. Pencils

2 - Pens (Blue - Black)

2- Composition Notebook for 6th &

1 - Box Kleenex (Give to Homeroom

5 - Pocket Folders with Three Hole

### Hay River REVIEW July 2025





# WOODS & WATER

### By DM McLennan

Late June brought its share of challenges for local anglers, with rain, wind, and heat all making appearances. Still, between weather systems, the fishing delivered.

Right now, panfish are stealing the spotlight. Anglers are not only landing numbers, but also some impressive sizes. Big bluegills have been a hot topic, but jumbo perch and slab crappies are showing up, too.

Bluegill action has stayed relatively consistent with

The Woods & Water column features our area's incredible natural resources and tells stories from the outdoors. We will also provide information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, such as events, season dates, and other important information.

# **Changing Conditions**, **Steady Action** for Area Anglers

last month, with most fish holding in 6 to 8 feet of water. Some are sliding a bit deeper, down to about 12 feet. Perch have been more scattered, but they're hugging weedlines in various depths, sometimes out to 15 feet. Crappies are coming from around submerged structure, often in mixed depths, and the bite has been steady.

Pike and musky are cruising the shallows, especially around weed lines, dropoffs. and break lines. With the heavier winds we've experienced lately, it's worth paying attention to where

the wind is coming from. The wind will push baitfish, and the natural obstacles (points, heavy weeds, etc.) create funnels and cover, ideal for ambush spots for toothy predators.

Recent rains brought higher water and heavy stains to trout streams throughout the area, but conditions are beginning to stabilize. With the stained and risen water, many fly anglers are switching gears—from trying to match hatches to stripping streamers. And it's paying off. Dark streamer patterns have been productive lately.



Young Sam enjoyed a day with family boating over 50 panfish, during a very warm June day. Photo by Richard Sampson

As streams clear up and levels drop, we're entering terrestrial season. Expect hopper patterns, beetles, ants, and the occasional hatch still mixed in to produce trout. A reminder for trout anglers: if it's hot for you, it's hot for the fish. Use wet hands, keep fish in the water as much as possible, and fish early or late to avoid stressing trout in the midday heat.

In other news, we've got our first fly-tying night on the books. We'll meet at the Ridgeland Library on July 7 at 6 p.m. It'll be an informal, info-sharing session to go over basic tools, goals, and to get to know each other. Whether you're just getting started or have been tying for years, all are welcome as we build a community around fly tying and fishing stories.

# Mission Restoring Hope Transforming **Donations into** Lasting Change

#### **By Doreen Olson**

Why donate to Mission **Restoring Hope? Because** we're more than a thrift store—we're a bridge between compassion and real need. We serve people facing some of life's hardest moments: starting over after homelessness, recovering from a disaster, or rebuilding after addiction or domestic violence.

Everything you donate is thoughtfully sorted, cleaned, and given directly to individuals and local organizations or used to support our programs. Our excess inventory helps stock our low-cost thrift store, where everything is \$2 unless otherwise marked, making it easier for local families to stretch their budgets.

Health and Hygiene Kits stocked with everyday essentials-soap, shampoo, feminine products, cleaning supplies, and more.

Home Starter Kits include dishes, pots and pans, towels, utensils, and other basics to help people move into new housing with dignity.

The need doesn't stop there. We also accept office supplies, school supplies, first aid items. and travel-size toiletries-all the little things that make a big difference when someone is starting over. If it's clean, usable, and in good condition, chances are someone we serve could use it. Please, no broken, worn-out, or dirty items. We want every donation to feel like a gift.

sent to Midwest Mission for disaster recovery efforts. We provided gently used clothing to Matthew 25 Ministries, which distributes to people in crisis both within the U.S. and abroad. We also supported an outreach in Southern Africa, where clothing and shoes were given to the Igbo tribe, an underserved group living in extreme poverty.

Locally, our donations continue to fill needs every week through partner organizations, direct referrals, and our thrift store, which helps fund the very programs that bring hope and healing to so many.

So the next time you're organizing a drawer, cleaning out a closet, or know someone looking to donate, think of us. Every item that passes through our doors has the potential to meet someone in a moment of need. With your help, we're making a difference, one donation at a time.

#### **Faith United Methodist** Church 159 10th St., Prairie Farm July 6-Holy Communion

July 8- Ad Council @ 5:30 p.m. Pastor Vicky Strupp July 13- ULC park @ 10:00 a.m.

**Regular Sunday** 

Worship 8:30 a.m. You are warmly invited to come and worship!

# **Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors**

### 2058 FED)

Your one-stop shop for feed and feeding equipment for domestic pets, farm animals, wild birds, and deer. We also carry seeds for pastures, food plots, lawns, and sweet corn. Our non-feed inventory includes medication, gates, corral panels, and more.

If we don't have it in stock, we'll do our best to get it for you. Minimums: Bulk Delivery- 1 Ton • Bagged Orders- 500 lbs. · Your own barrel, totes, or wagon- 500 lbs.

## (715) 357-3350 poskinfeedstore.com

# Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 9am-noon

We create three main kits designed to meet specific needs:

Hotel kits for temporarily housed individuals after fires or crises are filled with hygiene items, disposable dishes, phone chargers, and even small comforts like notepads and pens.

In the past year, your donations helped us support over 14 organizations across the region, and beyond. We contributed school supplies and Christmas gifts to children through Strong Arms for Families. Medical equipment and adult incontinence supplies were

Visit us at 105 Tower Street W, Wheeler, WI

Store Hours: Wednesday 11 am to 6 pm, Friday 11 am to 4 pm, Saturday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Follow us on Facebook to see how your support transforms lives!

### **102ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

### RIDGELAND QUEENS COURT

**NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS** WHICH CAN BE PICKED UP AT

### SECURITY BANK AND COATES CORNER

### TO BE ELIGIBLE, COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY THURSDAY, JULY 31

SUBMIT COMPLETED APLICATIONS TO KRISTIN AT SECURITY BANK

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANNA LIEN AT 715-308-4082 CARRIE KLEFSTAD 715-308-3810

RIDGELAND FAIR SHIRTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT SECURITY BANK, COATES CORNER, SPORTSMEN'S BAR, AND LOF APPAREL & TACK



# FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

#### By Martha Wright

The path in the woods is grown with grass reaching my knees, and my pant legs are soaked from the recent rain. I dislike clingy, wet denim, but I am on a quest to see how many different types of ferns I can find in the forest near my house, and it will be worth the discomfort. I have already found three varieties in the trees, and ahead of me, Martha Wright lives in the Hay River area where she spends as much time in the woods as possible. She enjoys long nature walks, looking for new plants to identify, and foraging for wild edibles. Her favorite wild edible is red clover blossoms made into fritters.

# **Fern Fever**

there is a clearing where there should be more.

I am not the first person to be interested in these ancient plants whose fossils are found with the dinosaurs. People in the 1800s were so enamored with ferns that the fascination had a name-Pteridomania-from the Greek word pteridophyte, meaning "feathered plant." They even formed clubs for their "fern fever," and at least one of those, the American Fern Society, is still active today. During this era, ferns became popular in gardens and as potted plants indoors.

Ridgeland Park It was a potted plant in an elderly relative's living room that attracted my notice as a child. When I followed the cat underneath it. on hands and knees, I was nearly hidden by the low-hanging fronds. Looking up, I discovered that there was a tiny decorative birdhouse hanging there. The experience might have started fern fever for me then and there, but I am not good with houseplants, and gardens for anything other than vegetables require more time and effort than I want to spend, so I enjoy the plants in the wild instead.

Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis), one of the varieties that I find in the clearing, is a wetland fern, and easy to identify. On all ferns, the leafy part of the frond is called the blade, and the stem is the rachis. The blade of Sensitive Fern is less feathery than other ferns, and it has no look-alikes. It is also called Bead Fern because of the beaded look of the fronds that contain the spores for reproduction.

Ferns reproduce by spores rather than seeds. Unlike plants that have seeds, no pollination is necessary as

"Fern" cont'd. on page 14...

### Aug. 5th 4.7 p.m. Bouncy Houses! Diller - community partnerships Happening During Farmers Market Family Fun Night Courses! Check Out the Trucks!

Enter the enchanted world of Ren in the Glen



Interrupted ferns have brown spore fronds on the stem "interrupting" the green leafy sections.



Maidenhair fern blades are arranged in a fan.



# Medieval Fantasy Faire July 26 - 27

Glenwood City, Wisconsin renintheglen.com

Saturday 10 am ~ 7 pm 🏶 Sunday 10 am ~ 6 pm Tickets \$18 at the gate ~ \$16 in advance Children 12 & under Free 🏶 Free Parking 1442 Dunn St. Croix Road ~ Glenwood City, Wis. Advance ticket sales and complete information at: renintheglen.com Rock Polypody grows on a cliff face and is found in rocky regions. *Photos by Martha Wright* 





### PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

### By Lon Christopherson

Along the street north of the village square in Ridgeland stands one of the town's oldest buildings. Most residents know it as the Gambles Store, but it didn't start as a store. The structure, which was built in 1900 by Ed Melcher, had the distinction of being the first saloon in the village of Ridgeland.

Though it is hard to read in the accompanying photo, the sign hanging out front on the building reads " Golden Grain Belt Beer". To the right of the photo, you can also see part of a staircase attached to the rear of the saloon. These stairs led up to Melcher's "Opera House", where entertainment such as dances, stage shows, and silent movies were held. Locals provided some of the musical entertainment. Among them were Julius

If you have an interesting photo from our community's past that you'd you like to share, email it to me at lonchristopherson1@ gmail.com or stop by the Ridgeland Library Thursdays, 3-5.

## The Ridgeland Gambles Store

and Ole Stevens, who played the fiddle and dulcimer, and Lolita Schmidt, who played the piano. It is interesting to note that a few years after Melcher's saloon opened, another saloon opened on the same street just east of Melcher's. However, little is known about that establishment.

As time moved on, John Keller purchased Melcher's saloon. During his time as owner, the village board held its meetings there. In 1921, Peter and Olga Mickelson took over ownership of the structure, starting a general store in the lower half of the building. They continued operation for seven years, sometime in the 1930s. Carl Houg became the owner and opened a Gambles Store, the name which still sticks to the building today. His store sold most everything from bicycles to bats. The bats were made locally by Hugh Rogers and his son Robert from their own white ash lumber, which they formed on a turning lathe.

In the late 1930s, Richard and Ardys bought the store and continued to run the business until 1941. Other owners who followed were Nevan and Beulah Swant, Casey and Edna Duzy, Carl Rentz, and the last couple to run it as a Gambles Store were Zean and Evelyn Adams, who were owners from 1947 into the 1960s. As a kid in the early 1960s, I remember going there with my brother, where he bought a Lone Ranger and Silver figure, and I got a Tonto and Scout! Sometime in the mid-1960s. the Gambles Store went out of business. Clarence Amundson purchased the building in 1968 and used it as a TV shop. Later, the Zion New Testament Church held its worship service there from 1976 to 1983. The next owner, Dave Blumenhauer, remodeled the old store into several apartments. Today, the one hundred twenty-fiveyear-old building remains, and is still known by many as The Gambles Store.



Horses and men outside Melcher's Saloon, early 1900s.



Richard and Ardys Glaser inside the Gambles Store, 1937. *Photos From the Don Link Collection* 

## Did you know our writers are all volunteers? Thank them next time you see them!

#### ... "Ren" cont'd. from front page

leatherwork, pottery, jewelry, costumes, swords, armor, shields, glassware, toys, gems, and metalwork, just to name a few, plus plenty of fortune tellers such as tarot and palm readers.

For adults, the faire has the Lazy Oak Tavern and the Last Pint Pub, which offer locally made craft beers, hard cider, and mead (a type of wine made from honey), as well as a place to rub shoulders with many strange and curious characters. Costumes, of course, are highly encouraged.





Ren in the Glen is located at 1442 Dunn Saint Croix Road in the Town of Glenwood, and will be open 10 am to 7 pm on Saturday, July 26, and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. Parking is free. The event is completely accessible and is entirely on grass and sandy trails.

Kids under 12 get in free. Tickets are \$18 at the gate, \$16 in advance online, or \$15 for orders of ten or more. For complete details and ticket information, visit renintheglen.com.

# Looking for In-home Help?

# Check the Resource Guide at **adrcconnections.org**

or call 715-537-6225 for help connecting to local resources



Quilt Show & Strawberry Fest June 28 & 29 10:00 – 5:00 Pioneer Heritage Days July 12 – 13 10:00 – 5:00 Red Cedar Rendezvous August 1 – 3 10:00 – 5:00 Past Reflection's Car Show August 9 10:00 – 3:00 Ol' Time Fair August 16 – 17 10:00 – 5:00 Vintage Baseball August 17 Ladies' History Luncheon August 23 Bluegrass Festival September 5 – 7 Veteran's Picnic September 14 Native American Heritage Day September 20 10:00 – 5:00



1866 13<sup>1</sup>/2 -14th Ave. Cameron, WI 54822 715-458-2080 www.pioneervillagemuseum.org



By Barbara Petersen

### Summer Fun for All at the Library

Summer Fun at the Dallas Library started with a Perler bead craft event, where several guests created colorful designs. Librarians were on hand to assist children with their projects. The second event featured bookmark designing, and we were pleased with the turnout as children crafted their own creative masterpieces.

We plan to have the special activities listed below for July from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

July 1- Inside: board games, card games, a scavenger hunt, etc. Outdoors: relays, teams, etc.

July 8- Paper Crafts rubberstamping, paper piercing, Iris Folding, etc.

July 15- Puzzles—jigsaw, word search, crossword, picture, etc.

July 22- Needle Craft embroidery, cross stitch, knitting, crocheting,

July 29- Rock Painting please bring rocks for yourself and to share

# The Book Report **Dallas Public Library**

You will notice that these activities may also appeal to adults. Our Summer Fun events aren't just for children. Adults are very welcome, too!

At each event, we also have puzzles, word games, coloring sheets, and other activities available. Young and old can come at any time to work on a project, although it is helpful to be there earlier rather than later. If a project doesn't get done, it may be finished the next time the Library is open. We also plan to host movies/ videos on Saturday mornings.

If you plan to attend the rock painting event, please bring a rock to paint and, if possible, a second rock for someone else.

### "Passion in Death" by J. D. Robb

When Rozell Baldwin died last year, we ordered two books in her memory. The second one has arrived: "Passion in Death" by J. D. Robb. The plot begins with Lt. Eve Dallas attending a club where a bachelorette party has become a crime scene. Although the dead bride is near a packed dance floor, clues and witnesses are few.

Tension mounts as Dallas searches for clues to solve the gruesome murder. Come in and check out this new book. Enjoy a tense mystery to pass the time on hot summer nights.

### What's New at the Library

In our Inspiration section are a number of books in the Romancing America series. Each book contains three or four short novels, often written by different authors, but the characters and themes are similar. Each book is set in a different state.

The books we have on the shelf are set in the following states: Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Alaska, Indiana, and California.

### ..."Career" cont'd. from page 7

and Minnesota, was the cornerstone of his practice. From delivering babies to providing end-of-life care, he considered it a "true privilege" to be part of his patients' most significant moments. Among his greatest joys? "Helping bring a newborn safely into the world."

Dr. Sampson's impact reached far beyond the exam room. He served as Medical Director for three nursing homes, Chief of Staff and Site Chair at Mayo Northland, and





On June 10, our local children worked on Perler bead projects at the library. This was our first summer fun activity. *Photo submitted by Barbara Petersen* 

If you like inspirational literature, try this series- it may become a favorite!

### Closure

The Library will be closed Saturday, July 5, for the 4th of July weekend. We want our Liberians to enjoy the weekend with their family and friends. Also, if your child might have left a jacket, we are holding two that have been left behind.

### **Stay Connected**

The August events will be listed in the August issue of the Hay River Review.

Chair of the Mayo Northland

advisor to the Barron County

Health and Human Services

Director for Barron County

challenges of the COVID-

19 pandemic with steady

leadership. His dedication

as an instructor in Family

Medicine at Mayo Clinic

and an Associate Professor

of Medicine at the Medical

As Dr. Sampson steps into

anticipates new adventures

with the same warmth he

brought to his practice.

Fishing and family time

College of Wisconsin.

retirement, he eagerly

to education shone through

Public Health, navigating the

subcommittee and as Medical

Community Board. He also

contributed as a medical

### Library hours

Tuesday and Thursday- 2 to 6 pm

Saturday- 9 am to noon.

Like us on Facebook! Dallas Library - WI.

Email: dplibrary2018@gmail. com.

Mailing address: Dallas Public Library, P.O. Box 84, Dallas, WI 54733.

Physical address: 100 Dallas Street W., Dallas, WI.

Phone: 715-837-1186 (Shared with village- feel free to leave a message)

Above all, his wife, Kim, children Erica (Jordan) Bowen and Michael Sampson, stepchildren Brianne (Danny) McLennan and Kyle (Kasey) Rose, and grandchildren Marcus, Katie, Jovie, Samuel, Jack, Graham, Henry, Baylor, Griff, and Jep eagerly await more moments and memories with their devoted husband, father, and grandfather—a man whose compassion shines both at home and in our community.

Looking back, Dr. Sampson has no regrets. "I feel truly blessed," he said, reflecting on his decision to pursue rural family medicine with Mayo Clinic in Western Wisconsin. For the people of Prairie Farm and Barron County, the blessing has been ours. Thank you, Dr. Sampson, for your decades of service, unwavering kindness, and the countless lives you've touched. As you embark on this new chapter, know that your legacy will live on in our hearts and our community.

# The Church on the Hill • Pastor Mark Woeltge Worship - 8:30 am Fellowship - 9:30 am

West Akers Lutheran Church

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remain his priorities, alongside trail riding, pickleball, and home projects. His passion for singing and church involvement will continue to anchor his life, reflecting the community spirit that defined his career.



#### Page 14 -

### ... "Fern" cont'd. from page 11

spores are grown entirely by the parent plant. Some species of ferns grow the spores on the back of their leaves, in small packets called sori. Others, like the Sensitive Fern and the Ostrich Fern, grow them on fronds that hide among the leaves when they are green, but turn brown and stand out as they mature, and are visible in the snow through the winter.

The Interrupted Fern (Osmunda claytoniana), a woodland variety, does something different: its spores grow in brown clusters that "interrupt" the green leafy sections on the central stem of the blade. The leafy parts of the frond, which are called pinnae, are important for identification and can be divided several times into progressively smaller sections, called pinnules. The more they are divided, the more feathery the fronds look. The last fern I find on this walk is the Northern Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum pedatum), another woodland variety. The blades are laid out in a flat fan shape, with black, wiry stems that can be used in basketmaking. I recognized these earlier in the spring when their burgundy fiddleheads came up.

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You may have heard that fiddleheads are edible, but while all ferns come up as fiddleheads, not all fiddleheads are safe to eat. The field guide, Ferns & Allies of the North Woods, is the source for much of my knowledge of ferns. According to its author, Joe Walewski, the Ostrich Fern (Matteuccia struthiopteris) has the only edible fiddleheads in our area. I have heard people say there are others, but they require special preparation, and I have never wanted to try anything I am unsure of. If you can find the fiddleheads

Hay River REVIEW July 2025

of the Ostrich Fern early in the spring, they are excellent when sautéed in butter.

All the ferns I have mentioned are found in wet or wooded areas. Still, on a recent hike at Interstate Park, I saw a fern of the rocky regions, called Rock Polypody (Polypodium virginianum), growing on a cliff face. Just like anything else, when I start paying attention, I notice so much more. I may be getting fern fever after all.

# **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

July 1	Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Games- 2:30-5:30 pm
July 4, 11, 18, 25	AA Meeting- 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall in Clayton. For more info, call Dave C. at 715-948-4235
July 5	Dallas Library Closed
July 7	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party- 12:30 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center with potluck lunch
July 7	Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club meeting- 6:00 pm at the P.F. Community Center
July 8	Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Papercrafts- 2:30-5:30 pm
July 8	Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4:00-7:00 pm at Ridgeland Park. Food served by the Ridgeland Community Improvement- Campground Project
July 11	Dairy Days food stand- 6:00 pm, Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club will be serving burgers and fries for the tractor pull
July 12	Dairy Days Duck Race- Noon at Prairie Farm dam spillway Get your ducks for \$5 each prior to the date from any Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club .member while they last
July 15	Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Puzzles - 2:30-5:30 pm
July 15	Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Ridgeland Park. Food served by Pine Creek Lutheran Church with music by LaRose-Andrea
July 16	Prairie Farm Sportsman's Club monthly meeting- 6:00 pm at Buckhorn Bar
July 17	Ridgeland Civic Club meeting- 6:00 p.m. at the Library
July 21	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party- 12:30 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center with potluck lunch
July 22	Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Needlecrafts- 2:30-5:30 pm
July 22	Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4:00-7:00 pm at Ridgeland Park. Food served by the Ridgeland Parents' Club
July 29	Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Rock Painting- 2:30-5:30 pm
July 29	Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Ridgeland Park. Food served by Synergy Cooperative
July 29	Dallas Library Board meeting- 6:00 pm at the Library
July 31	Ridgeland Historical Meeting- 6:00 pm at the Ridgeland Library
Aug. 5	Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4:00-7:00 pm at Ridgeland Park. Family Fun Night/National Night out- EMS. Food served by the Ridgeland Civic Club.



# TOWNSHIP & VILLAGE MEETINGS

### **Contact Town Clerks for details**

Township/Village	Clerk/contact info.
Town of Arland	Pam Fall 715-455-1074 pamela.fall@thrivent.com
Town of Dallas	Karolyn Bartlett 715-837-1039 townshipofdallas@yahoo.com
Town of New Haven	Katie Bovee 715-643-3703 clerk@townofnewhavenwi.com
Town of Prairie Farm	Vicki Buck 715-495-2798 buckdv@chibardun.net
Town of Sand Creek	Pam Meinen 715-205-3511 sctown@chibardun.net
Town of Sheridan	Joe Boesl 715-205-6193 clerkofsheridan@gmail.com
Town of Vance Creek	Glennis Lynch 715-357-1432 vcclerk04@gmail.com
Town of Wilson	Denise Schlough 715-949-1938 ddtsschlough@mosaictelecom.net
Village of Dallas	Lynn Anderson 715-837-1186 vdallas@chibardun.net
Village of Prairie Farm	Sherrie Siebert 715-455-1714 villagepf@chibardun.net
Village of Ridgeland	Kristin Huset 715-949-2265 bkhuset@chibardun.net

Aug. 5 John Lynch band playing at Ridgeland Farmers Market- 5:30-7:00 pm

Put your event on the Community Bulletin Board by contacting Alicia Krusey at akrusey@dairystatebank.com or 715-234-9181 ext. 144.

### SPONSORED BY NEDLAND INDUSTRIES RIDGELAND, WI

In this time of transition, we face multiple challenges from

viruses, climate crisis, and political turmoil. Douglas has

decades of experience helping homeowners and land managers

move toward practices that help us survive with the least impact

on future generations. He is a resident of Otter Creek Township

in NW Dunn County.

**Thirteen Years In** 

### **SUSTAINABLY** YOU HOW TO THRIVE



### By DKO Pike

The world seems shrouded in smoke from massive Canadian wildfires. 58 degrees outside and 67 degrees inside, windows open.

Back in 2010, I sold our family cabin that was 4-5 hours away on a nice lake in central Wisconsin. A family, tired of driving from Madison to Northern Minnesota, wanted it for a shorter commute to their weekend retreat. Not sure how long that family held it, as they have been divorced for some years now, based on reports from former neighbors. Our family started camping there in the late 1950s. We eventually built a cabin, starting in 1964. My parents became snowbirds when my dad retired at 62 in 1987. They invested in

expanding the structure by  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Pushing out the west wall and adding a deck. Over the years, two garages were added. One for my dad's shop. The 2nd was larger. It stored their pontoon boat in the winter months and their car in summer.

The proceeds from that sale allowed me to purchase 80 acres and build a passive solar home. It is 90 miles due east of my former home in Minneapolis. Part of the motivation of my partner and me was to live next door to Don and Joni, who were landscaping colleagues I'd met in 1992 at a Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association conference. Over the years, we collaborated on a few projects and gradually became closer friends. They have since moved into Menomonie, the largest city

within a 30-minute drive, south of here. Don will be celebrating his 94th birthday this month.

The good news is that our new neighbors, married on their farm last August, have been wonderful collaborators. We trade labor, tools, and skills. In the few months they have lived next door, we have grown to rely on their produce and friendship, while helping out where we can.

During the winter following the purchase of this land, we focused our attention on designing our new home and decided where to place it. It is located 600' east of the paved access road that crosses the NW corner of this parcel. It helped minimize land shaping to create the lower-level walkout due to the natural, gentle slope from the garage and main entry to the south property line. With the land shaping came an opportunity to create an ideal landscape to illustrate sustainable landscape principles.

#### These include:

1) Orienting the long axis of our home to face the sun. This yields maximum winter passive solar heat gain, while keeping out summer sun with overhang extending from the roof and Greenawnings that hold grape vines that provide both summer shade, evapotranspiration cooling, and food from the grape varieties we grow on those

trellises that are integrated into the original construction.

2) Topsoil, removed to have a stable base for our driveway, was reshaped into a berm and planted with several rows of white pine and Black Hills white spruce along the northwest quadrant. This has two important functions. This living barrier blocks both the setting summer sun (keeping the home cooler during the hottest time of day) and prevailing winter winds from the Northwest that bring our coldest weather. Thus, reducing the need to add heat, since the wind is not pushing the warmth out of our home. It helps that the structure is super sealed with windows designed for maximum heat retention. While some of those steps required more upfront construction expenses, those were quickly offset by savings on both heating and cooling. We don't need a propane tank to stay comfortable. Our winter heat comes from the sun on clear days, the woodstove when it is cloudy, and the electric boiler circulating warmth through the floors in those zones where the woodstove is not effective and when we are away, keeping the home at 60 degrees.

3) Several rain gardens that collect roof runoff and allow it to soak into the topsoil rather than quickly running away during rain events. These gardens are filled with a diverse mix of native species that can handle both occasional flooding and extended drought. They double as pollinator habitat. Thus, we find ourselves surrounded by a wide diversity of birds that are able to feed their young with the larvae of those insects.

4) Lawn surfaces are minimized. The largest expanse is 20x30'. Just enough to accommodate seating 50 guests when my daughter was married in 2016. That area was dense clay following construction shaping. I had many loads of compost delivered that I tilled in to create a perfect growing medium for a "No Mow" mix of creeping fescues. It is a lawn that requires little care. I mow it less often than monthly, so less than six times each growing season. My neighbor across the street is grooming his turf weekly. We save time, fuel, and tractor maintenance.

5) We have several areas where we created raised beds for growing food. They are in terraced tiers at the SW corner of our home. Retaining walls were constructed with sandstone blocks salvaged from the foundation of the former farm home. Another area is to the NW of home, behind the evergreen windscreen. The third is just south of the driveway and the photovoltaic arrays that provide our electricity. A total of 36 panels provides more energy than we use on sunny summer days, including charging our electric vehicle. During shorter winter days, we are grid-tied to have a reliable source of energy when the sun is not up or it is cloudy, without resorting to more expensive batteries. During most of the year, we pay just the minimum charge for the privilege of being connected to the grid (\$45).

6) Supplementing the gardens of native flowers and grasses is a diverse array of shrubs that screen the view of our deer fence (we have nine acres that are free from deer browsing and even more destructive rubbing), along with providing multiple

other benefits. At this season,

"Thirteen" cont'd. on page 16...



## Secure Storage

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### 715-455-1581 or 715-296-6382

Hay River, Wisconsin

YouTube & Facebook: Mike's GunWorld



Prairie Farm - Ridgeland Emergency FOOD PANTRY

Located downstairs in the Prairie Farm Legion Hall Open Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m **Closed the 5th Tuesday** For more information call 715-641-1254 or 715-455-8061 Donations accepted at

149 10th Street Ridgeland, WI 54763 This institution is an equal opportunity provider

# Prairie FarmStand Brings Homegrown Charm to River Ave

By Cherri St. Germain

On the edge of town, a small honor-system stand brings fresh plants, homemade treats, and a sense of community to Prairie Farm.

The Prairie FarmStand, located at 719 River Ave N, is open on Sundays during the summer. I started it after buying the little house on the property last year. I hoped to plant roots literally and figuratively—and offer something special to the people here. It's been a family effort from the beginning. My sister, Sue Gerlach, and her husband, Allen Freiermuth, have lived in Prairie Farm for over 13 years. Their greenhouse, Good Root Growers, has been running for 11 of those years and is open on Fridays and Saturdays. With my spot being easy to find and access, we thought, why not offer some of Sue's plants on Sundays for weekend gardeners?

I believe in the honor system. In a place like Prairie Farm, where neighbors still trust one another, it felt like a good fit. Whether someone is heading home from church or just out on a walk, they can stop by and pick up a tomato plant, some fresh herbs, or even a cookie to brighten their day.

So far, the stand has featured

tomato and pepper plants, sweet potato starts, petunias, and homemade treats like chocolate chip cookies and raspberry rhubarb crumble bars. Items are offered simply—there's a cash box and a Venmo option for payment.

My hope is to keep the focus on homegrown or handmade items: garden produce, baked goods, herbs, plants, and maybe even things like maple syrup, eggs, honey, or soap always within Wisconsin's cottage food laws. I'd love to see others in the community contribute, as long as it stays food- and garden-based.

The stand sits in a peaceful spot with a view of the Hay River and even has a picnic table for folks who want to sit and chat. My vision isn't locked in, but I hope the Prairie FarmStand becomes a symbol of growth, energy, and connection—a small space where people feel welcome.

For updates or to get involved, follow along on Facebook at Prairie FarmStand.



You never know what you will find at the FarmStand!



A host of beautiful colors and healthy plants. *Photos by Sue Gerlach* 

# Justin Fowler

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... "Thirteen" cont'd. from page 15

the American high bush cranberries are covered with glorious white pom pom blossoms that will become clusters of deep red fruit that the birds enjoy for energy as winter recedes and they become palatable following a series of freezing and thawing nights and days. Earlier, there were showy displays of white serviceberry blossoms that are now turning blue with delicious fruit we can eat, and the birds flock to harvest. I have a nursery of native wahoo (a preferred alternative to invasive European burning bush of the same genus). I will soon pull back the weed-controlling tarps to allow the initial plants to spread. When they send up new shoots, I will dig them, placing them in pots to be sold by a collaborating local nursery. Since most of the shrubs were installed more than a dozen years ago, we are starting to see seedlings volunteering as the birds distribute their seed after eating the showy, nutritious fruit. This is true for both highbush cranberry and the delicate, compact downy arrowwood.



The mother plant of downy arrowwood. The volunteer is now

several feet tall across the driveway.



Closeup of American highbush cranberry. Planted south of home, screening view of the deer exclusion fence. *Photos submitted by DKO Pike*