

It's beginning to look a lot like . . . summer! At last, the trees are recovering after being completely defoliated by forest tent caterpillars this spring. The added greenery is a welcome sight indeed.

And the Winner is . . .

We are happy to announce that the title *Most Sophisticated Trapping Device* has been awarded to the **common bladderwort** – a carnivorous plant that lives right here on the Preserve! The deep-yellow snapdragon-like flowers that emerge above the water on long stalks are simple enough – but don't be fooled, what goes on underwater is not simple at all! Among the leaves of this plant are many elastic-walled bladders that are used to capture small invertebrates. When the trigger hairs at the mouth of the bladder are brushed by a passing organism, a tiny flap of tissue springs open and water rushes in, carrying the unsuspecting prey with it. (Larger prey, like water fleas and mosquito larvae, are ingested in stages.) The flap then closes and the plant begins digestion with the secretion of digestive enzymes and acid. Once the water and nutrients have been absorbed through the bladder walls, the trap is reset. This entire cycle takes only ½-2 hours to complete.

Last Call for Flight 7452

Did you know that **monarch butterflies** fly all the way to Mexico for the winter? Once there, they mate and lay eggs and then die. The new generation of monarchs flies to Canada to mate and lay eggs and die. And on it goes. This cycle is called the “one-way ticket” migration pattern.

I Taught I Taw a Putty Tat

This past year, there has been a rash of **bobcat** sightings in the area. Bobcats are found on the western Great Plains, along the Deciduous forest of the Great Lakes and in the Dakotas. They are closely tied to cottontail, jack rabbit and small mammal populations and it is believed that they are establishing long term populations farther north, the Preserve area included. Long-term food sources for bobcats include small mammals found on tall grass prairie and in large hay bales that provide winter habitat for small mammals. Relatively mild winters have allowed for increased mobility and the mange and distemper that reduced coyote populations have contributed to the invasion and survival of bobcats in the Preserve area.

Going, Going . . .

In May, two more plants, **Culver's root** and **Riddell's goldenrod**, became legally designated threatened species under Manitoba's *Endangered Species Act*. This designation means that they are likely to become endangered or at risk due to low or declining numbers if the factors affecting them do not improve. Both of these plants are found on the Preserve and begin flowering mid- to late-July. Culver's root has tall spikes of pure white flowers and leaves in whorls of 3-6. It is usually found along bush edges. Riddell's goldenrod has yellow flowers and long, narrow, yellowish-green leaves that fold lengthwise and curve downward. It is found in damp open areas. Interestingly, Riddell's goldenrod often cross-pollinates with the upland white aster, which has white flowers with creamy centers. The resulting hybrid has leaves like the goldenrod and pale yellow aster-like flowers. (For more info about Preserve species at risk, call 425-3229.)

Join us as we embark on International Prairie Tour 2001, August 10, 11, and 12. Visit Lake Bronson State Park in Minnesota on the 10th, the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve on the 11th and North Dakota's Icelandic State Park on the 12th. Learn about conservation efforts in Manitoba and south of the border and sample local cuisine. To register, call Gene Fortney at (204) 942-4845 or e-mail genef@natureconservancy.ca.

Upcoming Events

- August 11 – International Prairie Day at the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Find out what's happening on Canada's largest remnant of tall grass prairie. For more information call 425-3229.

For more information about the cultural history of the Preserve area, visitors may wish to stop by the Gardenton Ukrainian Museum and St. Michael's Church.

Tall Grass Prairie Guided Walks

2:00 pm

Every Sunday in July & August

Meet at the Prairie Shore Trail,

2 miles east of Tolstoi on PR 209

For more information call: 204-425-3229

The Preserve was established to protect and conserve the native species found there.

Please do not pick, dig or collect any of the plants or animals.

Manitoba Tall Grass

Prairie Preserve

Prairie Ponders

Summer 2001