

# Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

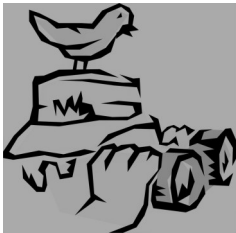
P.O. Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326

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

Email address—[pioneerhct@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerhct@gmail.com)

The pandemic greatly limited many of the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust (PHCT) activities for 2020. Hopefully you have all taken some more time to enjoy the natural landscape around us these past several months. Getting outside to breathe fresh air, see the sunrise/ sunset, or feel the breeze are all vital to our mental wellness.

Nature can help you disconnect, wind down, and take a break from the news.



Many of you watch and/or feed the birds. One of the greatest big screen TVs may be the window to your own yard. Birdwatching can be the new binge watch, a drama unfolding with every flap of the wing and perfectly executed landing. The lead characters, or birds, are appealing to all ages.

The Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

National classic was held in Minneapolis February 14-16, 2020. PHCT was the recipient of the Partnership of the Year Award for

several partnerships in the past & most recently a fee-title acquisition in Douglas County at the Venous Lake WMA and for helping fund a salaried position to promote and assist land owners with CRP sign-up.

## AWARDS



PHCT members Jerry Matison and Craig DeJong receiving plaque from PF Matt Christianson



Jerry Matison, Steve Pauly, Bob Jacobs, & Craig DeJong presenting Bob Jones with Conservation Award

*Photo courtesy of the Pope County Tribune*

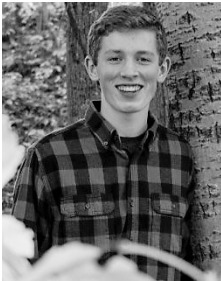
## What have you done lately to enjoy NATURE?

Bob Jones, 93, of Glenwood was nominated by the PHCT Board of Directors to receive the 2020 Habitat Conservation Award. A long time member of the Trust, and a past board member he was recognized with the award for his many hours of volunteer service to and donations to the Trust.

Nomination quote—*“Over the past 15+ years Bob has been there for the Trust. He has donated numerous wildlife paintings and guns for our raffles, framed the signs for the MAS Outdoor Learning Center twice, helped with nests and wild rice, and promoted all things related to the Trust.”*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship are open to students who currently or will be attending a college/university as a full-time student with a major in in the field of environmental sciences. The trust awards 4 or more post-secondary \$500 scholarships from Nov. to Feb. Applicants must be a resident of Douglas, Pope, Grant or Otter Tail County. Applications can be found on the PHCT website at [www.phctrust.org](http://www.phctrust.org)



Ryan Forster, a 2020 graduate of Alexandria High School was selected to receive the Vernon P. Ostrom scholarship. His passion for the outdoors began with tagging along with his father to the deer stand, camping, fishing, & bird-watching. In 9th grade he attended the bird count at the Lake Carlos State Park and this opened his eyes to a career in natural resources. He is attend

ing Bemidji State Univ. pursuing a wildlife biology degree. In his application he wrote "I am forever grateful to the numerous people who have invested in experiences that stoked my fire for conservation and I feel a personal responsibility to pay that forward."



The outdoors has been a big part of Eric Klimek's life. His grandpa taught him to deer hunt, fish and to not take more than you need. In Erik's application he stated "I want to protect the animals and their habitat so they will be thriving for generations to come. If there are no efforts in place to protect the animals and habitats they will disappear from this earth, and nobody wants that to happen." He graduated in May from Parkers Prairie and was selected for the Harvey K. Nelson scholarship. He plans to graduate Spring 2023 from University of MN Crookston with a degree in Natural Resources.

### Meagan Powers

Since Meagan was a young girl, she has enjoyed the outdoors. She has grown up with a deep passion for natural resources with a specific emphasis on wildlife conservation. Meagan is the recipient of the Dean A. Elmer Scholarship. She graduated May of 2019 and is currently attending the University of North Dakota pursuing a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. Her goal is to become a Conservation Law Enforcement Officer. She has completed a natural resources internship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Meagan believes "without the wise use of natural resources and conservation of wildlife and wild places, the world and quality of life we all enjoy, would gradually fade until it no longer exists."

### Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust meets the 2nd

Monday of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec, at 7:00 PM. The meetings are held at The Military House 304 South Gran Street  
Evansville, Minnesota

You are invited to attend!

### PHCT welcomes new Board of Directors

**Kerry Zimmerman** is the new director for Grant County. He grew up on a farm NW of Chokio. He has a background in agronomy. Recently he retired from being the County Executive Director of the Grant County Farm Service Agency. Kerry likes to hunt and fish in his spare time.

The new director for Otter Tail County is Ray Norrgard. During his career he served as Executive Director of the MN Waterfowl Association, worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and for over 30 years with the Minnesota DNR. He was involved in working with many different habitat programs some of which include the MN Wetland Conservation Act, Partners for Wildlife, & Reinvest in Minnesota. He was an instructor for MN DNR Advanced Hunter Ed program and one of the founders of the MWA's Woodie Camp. He has been a mentor to many in the field of wildlife.

At this time there is a vacant board of director for Pope County.



**Allie Lent , Jerry Matison, Carol and Craig DeJong put in cement footings and leveled this sign at Minnewaska High School.**



**Jason Tank's Minnesota Habitat Management Co. last Feb. seeding 33.5 acres of native prairie at the Rice Lake WPA near Eden Valley, MN**



**The seed began melting into the snow about 15 minutes after being spread.**

**Closeup of the prairie seed being planted**

## **CPL GRANTS**

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

### ***History of the PHCT CPL grants***

- 2012 Wetland Water Level Management—Pope
- 2013 Wild Rice Transplantation—Douglas, Pope, Grant
- 2013 Invasive Cattail Control -Stevens
- 2014 389G-1 Prairie Restoration -Pope
- 2014 Wild Rice Transplantation II—Otter Tail & Grant
- 2015 Wild Rice Transplantation III -Otter Tail, Douglas, Pope and Grant
- 2015 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control-Stevens
- 2016 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control II-Otter Tail, Pope, Traverse
- 2016 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control III - Stevens
- 2017 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control IV –Meeker, Stearns, Kandiyohi
- 2016 seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control V– Douglas
- 2018 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VI –Traverse
- Not yet completed
- 2020 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VII– Otter Tail

### **Project highlights include**

- 10 acre wetland pumped/drawn down
- 98 Pair Ponds
- 50 plus wetlands seeded with 10 tons of wild rice
- 80 acres of prairie restored and interseeded
- 857 acres invasive cattails sprayed
- 1 Gravel pit leveled & trees removed adjacent to pair ponds
- 33 acres of tall grass prairie seeded adjacent to pair ponds
- 1 grazing contract awarded adjacent to pair ponds
- Replaced 1 water control metal weir structure restoring water to 100 acre wetland

Hoping in 2021 that PHCT will be able to proceed with the Vern Ostrom memorial bench at the Lake Venus WMA south of Evansville.

IN MEMORY OF  
VERN OSTROM  
2020

**The Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust**

### PHCT Motto

"Our time on earth is brief, yet the land goes on forever, carrying with it the marks of each succeeding landowner. As fleeting trespassers on land that belongs to future generations, we must touch the land gently, caring for it as true stewards, so that those who assess our record will see our love and respect for the land and life."  
(Robert B. Oetting)



## 2021 Officers and Directors

Bob Jacobs	President & Director, Pope Co.
Rick Banke	Vice President & Director at Large
Joe Montonye	Secretary & Director, Grant Co.
Rick Paulsen	Treasurer & Director , Douglas Co.

Greg Lillemon	Director, Douglas Co.
Ray Norrgard	Director, Otter Tail Co.
Loreli Westby	Director/Newsletter Editor, Otter Tail Co.
Kerry Zimmerman	Director, Grant Co.
Open	Director, Pope Co.

**PIONEER HERITAGE  
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Box 337,  
EVANSVILLE, MN 56326

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Thinking of joining Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust?** Fill out the form below and mail it along with your check to PHCT. **Already a member?** *Take a look at the bottom of the mailing label on this newsletter.* ***That's your membership expiration date.*** If it's prior to today's date, please renew now. **Thank you!**

Cut on dashed line

# PIONEER HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

All information is for the use of PHCT only. Please make your check payable to PHCT.  
Mail to PHCT, PO Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326      Donations are tax deductible under IRS Code Sec. 501(c)3

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

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (        ) E-Mail: