

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 337, Evansville, MN 56326

Learn more about us at www.phctrust.org

Email address—pioneerhct@gmail.com



Spruce Hill Park Trout Stocking



PHCT members Jerry Matison, Craig DeJong, Bob Peters and Rick Banke helped release Rainbow and Brown trout into Spruce Creek. This is the 3rd year local sportsman's clubs have been stocking the Creek with trout.

Lake Venus WMA Clean Up Days



Two different clean up events took place at the Lake Venus WMA (located 7.5 miles north of Kensington on Hwy 1). An old farmstead site and 1/3 mile of woven and barbed wire fence was removed. PHCT members helping with clean up on April 16th included: Bob Peters, Terry Lejcher, Steve Pauly, Lars Nelson, Craig DeJong, Carol DeJong, Bob Jacobs, Jerry Matison, Andy Rice, Rick Banke. On April 23rd Mitch DeJong, Todd Olson, Andy Bye, Joe Montonye and Jerry Matison also assisted in cleaning up.

The Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust participated in the 2021 Youth Activity Day at the Alexandria Shooting Park. Hen House rolling at the PHCT booth was one of over 40 activities for the youth to get involved with. Lars Nelson, Robert Peters, and Rick Paulsen from the PHCT were on site to assist kids. Over 40 houses were refurbished during the event. Total attendance at this years event was over 4500. This event took place August 29, 2021



Lars Nelson assisting with rolling of hen houses



Lake Venus Wildlife Management Area Dedication August 11, 2021

Habitat Improvements in Memory of Vern Ostrom



Bench in Memory of Vern Ostrom

The boulder lined parking lot was constructed by Red Rock Tiling of Kensington. The Ostrom granite bench was supplied and placed by Murphy Granite of St. Cloud. Thank you for the beautiful work!



Funding for Lake Venus State WMA provided by:

- *Outdoor Heritage Fund
- *North American Wetland Conservation Act
- *Douglas County Chapter Pheasants Forever
- *Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust
- *Viking Sportsmen * Evansville Area Sportsmen
- *Pheasants Forever *Brandon Fur, Fin, and Feathers
- *MN Department of Natural Resources

Dedication Program

Emcee —Matt Christensen from Pheasants Forever

Speakers consisted of:

Sabin Adams—MN Pheasants Forever

Kevin Kotts—MN Department of Natural Resources

Josh Schafer—Douglas County Pheasants Forever

Rick Banke and Dale Stinton—Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

**Meal Served by
PHCT members
Krista and Jerry
Matison, Carol
DeJong, and
Mark Puchalla**



**48 Attendees enjoyed Tom's catered chicken dinner
prior to the dedication program**





Tory (Carlson) Cohen and husband Jon, from Boston, accepted the 2021 Habitat Conservation Award for the Dennis and Vada Carlson Family. The family donated 40+ Wildlife prints that have been framed and given to area conservation clubs for their fundraisers. Framed prints were given to Brandon Fur, Fin, and Feathers, Evansville Sportsmen, Viking Sportsmen, and Douglas County Pheasants Forever during the dedication.

The Venus Lake WMA is an unusually diverse and beautiful tract of public land. It boasts a river, lakeshore, woods, wetlands, tall grass prairie, and a "turkey" draw.

The MN DNR announced shortly after the ceremony that the PHCT has officially "adopted the Venus Lake WMA" and will help with maintenance and habitat enhancement projects in the future.



We are saddened to announce that we did not receive any scholarship applications for 2021, so no scholarships were awarded this past year.

If you know of someone that is eligible please make sure they submit an application by

May 31, 2022.

Scholarship are open to students who currently are attending a college/university or will be attending as a full-time student with a major in in the field of environmental sciences. PHCT will award scholarships at a minimum of \$500 up to maximum amount of \$1,000.

Applicants must be a resident of Douglas, Pope, Grant or Otter Tail Counties.

Post Secondary Scholarship Applications can be found on the

newly updated

PHCT website at www.phctrust.org

under the scholarships & grants tab.

CPL GRANTS

PHCT continues to administer several Conservation Partners Legacy Grants. Please visit 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 Transp. III -OT, Douglas, Pope and Grant
 2015 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control-Stevens
 2016 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail II-OT, 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 completed yet
 2020 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VII— Grant
 2021 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control VIII— Pope
 2021 Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control IX— Kandiyohi
 2021 Pollinator Plot Establishment—Stevens

A special thank you to the six sportsman's clubs who recently partnered financially with our 2020 and 2021 CPL grant projects. Thank you to the Vikings, Douglas County PF, Gobblers of Glacial Ridge, Pope County Pheasants, Glacial Ridge PF, and Fergus Falls Fish and Game for helping us reach our in-kind requirements!!!

Your are invited to attend the meetings for the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

PHCT meets the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 7:00 PM.

The meetings are held at The Military House at 304 South Gran Street in Evansville, Minnesota

Newly elected board members

Craig DeJong was elected Director at Large. He was raised in Alexandria, a graduate of Jefferson H.S. in 1977. Several teachers including Bill Banke, Larry Ortloff, Steve Schwarz, Dan Zinda, John Esbjornson, and others in the community including Warren Johnson, Duane Sheldon, Art Engelbretson and more inspired his interest in conservation and in "giving back". Craig and his wife Carol reside in Glenwood and are employed at the Glacial Ridge Eye Clinic.

Andy Bye is the new director for Grant County. He grew up on a farm South of Hoffman. He is currently employed at Douglas Machine.

2021-22Officers and Directors

Rick Banke	President & Director, Douglas Co.	Bob Jacobs	Director, Pope Co.
Mike Nemmers	Vice President & Director Pope Co.	Greg Lillemon	Director, Douglas Co.
Andy Bye	Secretary & Director, Grant Co.	Ray Norrgard	Director, Otter Tail Co.
Rick Paulsen	Treasurer	Loreli Westby	Director/Newsletter Editor, Otter Tail Co.
Craig DeJong	Director at Large	Kerry Zimmerman	Director, Grant Co.

**PIONEER HERITAGE
CONSERVATION
TRUST**
Box 337,
EVANSVILLE, MN 56326

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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)

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!**

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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 \$

☐ \$30 Annual

☐ \$100 Four years

☐ \$500 Life

☐ \$1000 Heritage

☐ Other Gift

Name (s):

Address:

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