

News and Updates

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEMORIAL THIS SEASON



Memorial Prairie Ministry

TEAM UPDATE

Prairie Update

After removing buckthorn, sunlight has once again been able to reach the forest floor, allowing dormant native plants to thrive. The prescribed burn this spring plays an important role, reducing leaf litter and dead grass, creating favorable conditions for native plants to emerge and grow.

One of the most exciting discoveries this season is that we have identified more than 40 native plant species that were already present on the property before we began seeding. They had simply been waiting for the right conditions to return.

Recently, we have discovered some native field thistle and a population of the uncommon thick-lipped orchid. We continue to manage invasive species such as Grecian foxglove, Dames rocket, Garlic Mustard, Virginia stickseed, Hoary Alyssum and of course buckthorn.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Bruce Bjerva for donating several uncommon prairie and woodland plants, including:

- Hill's thistle
- Orange puccoon
- Cream wild indigo
- Michigan lily

These additions will help increase the diversity and ecological value of the restoration. A complete list of the native species identified on the Memorial property will soon be available.

Update continued on next page.



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TEAM UPDATE CONTINUED

LABYRINTH

Wild strawberries now border the labyrinth path, complemented by groupings of native species at each turn. And, we continue to prepare the paths for fescue.

Steel edging around the labyrinth has been installed. Metal edging creates a fire-resistant border that will allow prescribed burns to be conducted safely around the outside of the labyrinth. Installation of edging along the pathways is also underway.



WHAT IS A LABYRINTH?

A labyrinth is a moving meditation where you walk a single, winding path to a center and return out from the same path. The not linear path acts as a metaphor for your spiritual journey, helping to quiet your mind, release daily distractions, and focus on connecting with God or your inner self

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Volunteers from Memorial and U of M Master gardeners meet on Thursday mornings from 9-11. New volunteers are always welcome. Also, please stop by for a quick tour or just to hang out.

