

Your land is your legacy

By ALAN KRAUS Guest columnist Jul 19, 2018



The Koester family at the dedication of the Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area in 2014. (Photo courtesy Alan Kraus)

It's July in Minnesota and the oak trees are waving their dark green leaves in the breeze. A field of big bluestem and gray-headed cone flower stretches in to the valley. Meadowlarks and bobolinks are singing in the fields.

But if it wasn't for Craig Koester and people like him, this piece of land would look very different.

Craig Koester, formerly of Dennison, worked directly with the Trust For Public Land to transfer land that was once in his family's ownership to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Kraus

“For me the land is a sacred trust. I grew up on there and experienced it as a place of discovery and renewal. The prairie, savanna and woodland are part of Minnesota’s rich natural heritage. My commitment is to preserve and enhance their value for future generations,” said Koester.

David Kuhnau co-heads the Friends of Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). For David, working to preserve and restore Prairie Creek WMA has become an important part of the legacy that he hopes to create.

“Prairie Creek WMA is so special ecologically with many different and rare habitats, including some rare plants and animals. It gives me great joy to be able to work with the Koester Family, Friends of Prairie Creek and

other organizations to make this land a legacy for generations to come,” said Kuhnau.

Currently, money is available to protect and restore lands within the Cannon River Watershed. Current funding also allows the Minnesota-based nonprofit organization Great River Greening to restore and enhance up to 400 acres of existing protected public lands. Funding for this project was provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, protect and enhance Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Do you think about the legacy you could leave as a landowner? If you answer “yes” then please contact Alan Kraus, conservation program manager at alan@crwp.net or at 507-786-3913 for more information.

Alan Kraus is the conservation program manager at the *Cannon River Watershed Partnership*.

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