

West Central WWOA meeting & field tour, Saturday, Oct. 4th

Our West Central WWOA will meet Saturday, Oct. 4th at the Gas-Lite Bar & Restaurant, W8945 U.S Hwy. 10, Hager City (*actually straight west of Ellsworth on 10*).

Coffee & rolls provided at 8:30 a.m. (free-will offering. Breakfasts to-order are also available if you come earlier.) A short business meeting will convene at 9 a.m. (*Short agenda, but we're looking for a new VP — not elected until the winter meeting— topic ideas for the joint Spring conference with Chip. Valley.*) Members are then invited to head out on a field tour at acreage along the Big River. six miles to the west.

An RSVP if you plan to attend will help us plan for donuts, pastries! Respond to: wc_wwoa@yahoo.com

The tour offers a walk around a picturesque 78-acre bluff- and bottoms woodlot on the Big River. Woodlot is co-owned by Rich & Ruth Ruemmele, and Steve & Sue Dzubay. The entrance gate (*look for orange surveyor's tape*) is located just beyond an unrelated, private home at W10712 550th Ave.

The Ruemmele-Dzubay parcel, acquired in 1994. remains a work-in-progress. Improvements include 10-12 acres of mixed plantings that replace the former cropland; the addition of two field roads and several trails, partnership with the Pierce Co. Snowmobile Assoc. on a premier bridge over a trout stream, and continued restoration on an acre of native prairie.

We're hopeful to have a WDNR forester at the event to narrate and answer questions.

During 30 years of ownership, the partners have watched significant tracts of neighboring farmland be transformed to large housing developments. The property offers some nice scenery, diversity, and easy walking. A 300-yard hike to the elevated goat prairie is optional.

There is no shelter on the property but there are a couple of picnic tables and gathering/fire pit used by the Prescott Sno-Bees.

Visitors are invited to bring along a bag-lunch to dine by the river after the tour, they can head to The Gas-Lite or nearby Valley Bar for lunch when the session winds up about noon.



The Big River flows through the center of the woodlot.



Take a short uphill hike to an acre or so of native prairie, looking S/SW toward the Mississippi River valley.

Driving directions

Acreage lies just beyond the home at W10712 550th Ave. From Hwy. 10, turn left onto 1090th St. Travel about a mile to a sharp bend, where you turn left onto 550th Ave. Follow the curvy town road to a double-gate — straight ahead. Drive in about 200 yards to a parking area.