

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



CITATION OF COMMENDATION

KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, Gary Eldred's advocacy as a completely self-taught conservationist for Wisconsin's prairies and rare prairie species is unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he worked on a state-owned bike trail which exposed him to the field work of parks, forestry, and the protection of endangered and threatened plant communities, which he would find while hunting and fishing across Green County; and

WHEREAS, Gary spent his free time outside of his work as a Natural Resources Assistant at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel, Wisconsin, where he located and preserved Wisconsin prairie remnants; and

WHEREAS, he has shown masterful leadership skills by turning a group of seven friends into a successful nonprofit with over 1,400 members, composed of 11 chapters across three states known as The Prairie Enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, Gary's work on prairie conservation has led to the preservation of thousands of acres of prairie through his work with The Prairie Enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, he has engaged in education efforts aimed at teaching private landowners about prairie remnants in order to pique their interest to protect these rare ecosystems, including going door to door and driving every road in 11 counties across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Gary Eldred has been inducted to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame for his lifetime of achievement in the field of prairie preservation; now

THEREFORE, the members of the Wisconsin Legislature, on the motion of Representative Katrina Shankland, do hereby honor Gary Eldred for his exceptional commitment to ensuring that rare prairie habitats are enjoyed for generations to come and thank him for his tremendous contributions to protecting a vital part of Wisconsin's natural environment.

Katrina Shankland
Representative Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District

Saturday, April 24, 2021

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