

Controlled burn at Umbria

Sister Maurita Bernet



On April 25, my friend Jean Carpenter and I were enjoying a calm and beautiful spring morning at Umbria when a couple trucks and ATVs arrived on the property. “Prairie Restorations, Princeton, Minnesota,” was painted on the vehicles.

They said they have a contract to burn one of the three prairie grass fields, rotating each year. What a spectacle: some guys on foot spreading the fire or spraying water to control it, while the ATVs buzzed around controlling the flames.

Brother Wind collaborated beautifully, tending the fire gently toward the river and away from the buildings. We could hear the fire crackling throughout the few hours of this free show. Impressive!