In their own words ... 
Experience – Grow - Make a Difference

Katya Frank
UW-Platteville Student & PACCE Summer Intern

Interning at Prairie Partners of the Audubon Society of Madison, WI
Senior majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology
Hometown: Clyde/Spring Green WI

“Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.”
(John Keats)
- Katya Frank

How did your internship opportunity happen?
I found out about the opportunity from an e-mail sent to all UWP biology students. The e-mail asked for a resume to be sent to John Peterson. I sent him a cover page as well. I found out quickly that he and whoever else was involved had chosen me to be the Platteville representative for this internship.

How are you spending your days?
The other interns and I use tools such as brush cutters, hand saws, and a variety of herbicides to kill invasive and pest species at our locations. We also do some seed collecting, planting/watering, and have UW Madison professionals speak to us on various important topics. They give us valuable advice and resources for our future careers.

What type of skills are you learning?
I am learning how to plan my time and energy for different projects and am learning different techniques on how to kill different pests/invasive species. I am forming my own opinions on specific plants and wildlife areas. I am also beginning to recognize some Wisconsin birds and many plant species.

How does your internship complement your academic goals?
I want to work outdoors doing something with conservation. I will graduate next spring and only have a year and a half of biology courses completed. It was great to be able to get the extra experience so that I don’t feel incomplete when I graduate. I also believe I was able to learn valuable field experience that a classroom setting could only try to help with.

Katya’s aha moment:
“I’ve always known that we struggle to know/agree what is best for the environment...it can be a guessing game and people bring their own biases to each possible solution.”