



# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

*Grassroots Conservation in Action*

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The  
Prairie  
Enthusiasts



## Resilience Frames Prairie Management & (Should) Manage Expectations

*By Jim Rogala*

Those of us who were at this year's TPE conference in Menomonie were introduced to resilience during the keynote address. As a review, resilience is simply the ease at which a disturbance can move a system from one state to another. For us prairie enthusiasts looking to apply these concepts to prairie management, disturbances might be such things as fires or intense woody species removal through herbicide use or grazing by goats. General states might include functioning prairies/savannas, degraded prairies/savannas, and reconstructed prairies, fallow fields or cropland.

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**Note that resilience is not  
a judgment on quality, but  
rather just the ability to be  
changed from one state to  
another.**

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As most of us know all too well, shifting from some of these states to another can be difficult, and thus, those states are considered resilient. Note that resilience is not a judgment on quality, but rather just the ability to be changed from one state to another. Also, the shift from one state to another can be rapid (such as plowing a prairie to convert to cropland) or slow (such as absence of disturbance leads to a degraded prairie.)

Furthermore, a state can change somewhat without moving to a new state.

Let's apply the principles of resilience to restoring degraded prairies/savannas. Unfortunately, degraded systems are often resilient! The degraded state of a prairie/savanna could be a result of changes in fire frequency, grazing (too much or too little), climate or other drivers, or combinations of these. Reversing one or more of these drivers does NOT rapidly convert a degraded remnant back to a fully functioning remnant.

Degraded systems usually become degraded through a slow process, and one might expect a shift back to a functioning prairie/savanna state might also be a slow process. A degraded prairie is often degraded because of invading woody species. Using the example of prescribed burning as the disturbance, a fire will not rapidly kill all the woody growth and cause a shift from a degraded state back to

*Continued on Page 4*

## Our Mission

The Prairie Enthusiasts seek to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest through protection, management, restoration, and education. In doing so, we strive to work openly and cooperatively with private landowners and other private and public conservation groups.

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## Seeking Smart People & Smart Phone Photographers

*Chris Kirkpatrick, Executive Director*

This summer marks my seventh year with TPE and completes our 50th land protection project. One of the special responsibilities that comes along with completing all these projects is the care we give these sites by burning, brushing and planting more prairies and savannas. Now that TPE is accredited, one additional activity we must do is complete an annual visit to all our conservation easements and fee-owned properties to complete a monitoring report. We now need volunteers to help with the monitoring.

Besides documenting the results of our management, and protecting the land use on the conservation easements, doing these visits gives us a chance to see firsthand the amazing places TPE's chapters have protected throughout the years. Most of these visits are done in the late fall, and consist of walking the property boundaries and taking landscape photos at certain points and corners. Once done with the visit, a written report with photos and a corresponding map are kept on file.

Last year, TPE invested in a software platform called Landscape ([www.landconservationsoftware.com](http://www.landconservationsoftware.com)), owned by Caleb Pourchot of Madison, Wis., who created the software program while working for Groundswell Conservancy. This new cloud-based software enables monitors to use a smartphone to take pictures, use the GPS to mark its location, and load everything into the software program on line. Things have come a long way since I was taking 35mm film photos for the first conservation easement baseline back in 2003. Now I can walk the property with my cell phone, take the pictures and fill the report out with my computer back at my desk, and save it all electronically.

In 2018, TPE added seven new sites that will need to be monitored this fall. We have had a dedicated but small group of conservation easement monitors for the past several years, and most of our site stewards also have completed an annual monitoring report. With our growing land protection program, we need to find additional volunteers to help.

I'll be hosting an on-line **Property Monitoring Training Program** at 7 p.m. Sept. 18, with the goal of training new volunteers to help TPE and its chapters continue to monitor our protected lands. If you enjoy taking hikes on TPE's sites, can navigate a property using a map, and are interested in using the technology of your smartphone to help TPE in carry out its mission, please consider an RSVP to TPE's Property Monitoring Training. You can reach me at 608-638-1873 or [executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org), and I can help get you out on the prairie!

Cover Photo: "Swallowtail on Monarda at Dusk" by Danielle Bell



## President's Message – Private Landowners and TPE

Scott Fulton, President

One of the strategic initiatives we have been working for some time is how to better serve TPE members who are private landowners with their own remnants or restoration projects. These members are often among our most passionate and knowledgeable, and certainly contribute a great deal to our mission and organization. However, we have been hearing from many of them that they sometimes do not feel very well-served by TPE. Much of the focus of most of our chapters is volunteer-based land management, either on TPE-owned preserves or public lands such as state natural areas. Landowners feeling overwhelmed by the amount of brush cutting, invasive removal and other management tasks on their own property are certainly not going to have the energy to be an active volunteer with the local chapter.

Part of our organizational response to this challenge has been to form an ad hoc committee to try to better understand the needs of our landowner members. Last year, this committee ran a survey on this subject that received over 100 responses, the results of which were nicely summarized by Jim Rogala in the November 2018 *Prairie Promoter*. Executive Director Chris Kirkpatrick and I have had many direct conversations about needs with landowners over the past couple of years, including those who are active members and those who are not currently part of TPE. We have also had some very interesting recent conversations about this topic with people from other conservation organizations as well as land management professionals.

All this information gathering points to a very consistent set of needs, which include:

- Detailed, current information of all kinds on restoration ecology and best management practices
- Access to high quality professional services (a major issue in some parts of TPE's service area)
- Help with finding and applying for funding for restoration projects
- Assistance with land protection, including serving as the land trust for conservation easements
- Endowments for ongoing, long-term management
- Implementation of ongoing, long-term management (see my column in the February 2019 *Prairie Promoter* for some of the challenges associated with this)

It is very clear that there is a significant unmet need which is very much connected to TPE's overall mission and general capabilities. This represents a substantial opportunity for us to increase our impact. However, it is also very clear that while supporting private landowners is the focus for a few of our chapters, in general this is not a good fit for most of our chapters. The strategic question for us to consider is should we add capacity to be able to meet the needs of landowners (probably in the form of additional staff or partnerships) or stick to the volunteer/chapter-based model we have now?

Please let us know what you think ([president@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:president@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)).

## Welcome New Members

Feb. 9 - May 31, 2019

Terry Baker  
LeAnna Bender  
Botanical Club of Wisconsin  
Cynthia Christensen  
Brian & Jill Cipra  
gift membership from Jack  
Kussmaul  
Pat Clark  
Kevin Clinton  
Michelle Cochran  
Fred Cruse  
Donna Davis  
Mary Deja  
Ken Erickson

Lois Flis  
Larry Galer  
Helena Agri Enterprises  
Gudrun Jack  
Curt & Melissa Jacob  
Justin Kania  
Bill Kleiman  
gift membership from Tom &  
Jenny Mitchell  
Janice Krane  
Sheila Landsverk & Ron Hunt  
Asenath LaRue  
Lauren Loomis  
Mary Montag

Natural Land Institute  
Ed Neumueller  
Christopher Noll  
Ariana Porcello  
John Rapos & Craig Weber  
Bob Retko & Kay Wienke  
David Rollay  
Ben Sandee & Liz Jesse  
William Stein  
Dan Unruh  
Debbi Walters  
Andrew Williams  
Wisconsin Historical Society



a functioning prairie/savanna. In fact, short-term effects of reintroduction of fire might have some undesirable effects such as increased number of stems of clonal species and re-sprouts from most species.

We find similar slow results when applying a quick removal of woody species using herbicides or grazing on a degraded site. The rapid removal of the canopy results in invasions by some opportunistic species. We know these species all too well - sunflowers, brambles and short-lived species. It may take decades for these species to come back into some kind of balance with less aggressive species. Even removed shrubs and trees can return either through re-sprouting or from a well-established seed bank.

The stability of a state can be influenced by non-native species. These species don't play by the rules that were established as our prairie/savanna ecosystems were evolving, as insect and disease controls for these species are absent in their new environment. Non-natives therefore have an advantage when invading areas with disturbance. The fact that the invasive non-natives have become so ubiquitous across the landscape further makes a degraded system more resilient and our quality remnants less resilient.

Another consideration at the landscape scale is fragmentation. Fragmentation, the isolation of similar natural

communities, can't be ignored when considering the state of individual remnants. In terms of resilience, the isolation may have altered the state through the loss of healthy genetics or complete loss of some species. This idea leads to our cautious use of disturbance during management that may result in species loss that can't be undone easily given the lack of proximity of sources for the species potentially lost. Our remnants are less resilient due to this fragmentation.

So where does all of this leave us when considering the effects of management on degraded prairies? Prairie restorationists are probably more patient than the average person, but our expectations are probably still too high. Some might consider the solution to be a heavy dose of frequent fire, herbicides or grazing. However, quick results are unlikely given the resilience of degraded systems, and things may get worse before we finally shift a degraded system back to the state of a functioning prairie/savanna.

Hopefully the rudimentary discussion on resilience provided here serves to keep our minds open to this topic when considering our management practices. Be patient and expect frustrations as we undertake the challenge of altering an undesirable resilient state to a healthy prairie or savanna.

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**Prairie restorationists are probably more patient than the average person, but our expectations are probably still too high.**

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## Brodhead Group Putts Back the Prairie

By Rob Baller

A small confederacy of ecological friends in the Green County, Wis., area last year pulled together more than \$500,000 to purchase the former Decatur Lake Golf Course, a few miles north of Brodhead. The course was created in 1925. Sitting along the north, upstream shoreline of the "Decatur Lake" dam on the Sugar River, the project is hoped to become a "model for transforming former golf courses into thriving ecosystems."

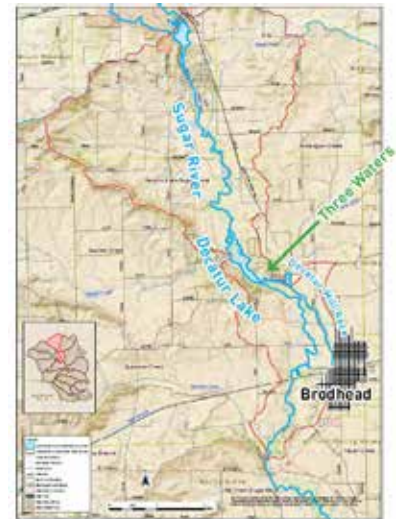
Steve Apfelbaum, owner of Applied Ecological Services (AES), one of the projects drivers (pun intended), remarked the owner decided to sell Decatur because golfing in general is waning. Last year, according to Apfelbaum, 19 golf courses closed down in Wisconsin. Many of Chicago's 45,000 acres of courses, he said, are becoming financially underwater. These open spaces are coming up for grabs.

Apfelbaum and several others have formed the Southwest Wisconsin Land Conservancy to facilitate re-purposing the Decatur course. They named their project Three Waters Reserve. Included is the 57-acre front nine and a clubhouse. Across the road is the 93-acre back nine purchased by family farmers Bryce and Jan Riemer, who are using the land for grazing.

According to Apfelbaum, the project may ultimately include both parts of the course, plus other land amounting to 163 acres. It's possible a senior apartment could be built

where previously there were sheds and buildings. The clubhouse may be remodeled into a restaurant for weddings and guests seeking quality, eco-friendly surroundings and locally-produced foods. The former Pro shop, lower level, may become a science and educational facility. Collectively, the site may serve as a regional conservation center where people gather to discuss watershed science, regenerative or sustainable farming, and many other ecological and planning interests.

After purchase last year, the fairways were planted with sunflowers to absorb phosphorus and to signal to the public the site was no longer a golf course. Open grown oaks are returning to savanna. The wettest open



Decatur Lake / Sugar Creek Subwatershed on the Lower Sugar River

Continued on Page 5

spaces may be planted to wet prairie, and the uplands planted to mesic prairie. Former cart paths will become hiking trails open to the public.

According to Apfelbaum, Decatur and other golf courses so-retired are a big opportunity for conservation.

Bryce Riemer, who is good friends with Apfelbaum, purchased the back nine to raise hair sheep (smaller, for meat), chickens and egg layers, and cattle - their number one enterprise. Among the Riemers' goals is to demonstrate for other farmers that regenerating soil structure doesn't take forever if you keep land under constant plant cover. Benefits include carbon sequestration, return of birds and monarchs, as well as quality pasture for livestock. The Riemers often sell their products directly to markets in Madison, or through buyer's clubs via their website at [www.Riemerfamilyfarm.com](http://www.Riemerfamilyfarm.com).



## Many Rivers Partners with Educators

By Jim Vonderharr

**M**any Rivers Chapter has recently started partnerships with several educational entities.

We were contacted in the spring of 2017 by Amber Gremmels, a middle school science teacher in New Ulm, Minn. The New Ulm School District has two vacant residential lots next to it that were just being mowed. She envisioned converting one of them to a prairie, and making it a learning experience for students.

Gremmels was looking for help. Our chapter worked with her, and over that summer we coordinated the clearing (Roundup) of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one of the lots. That fall, fellow chapter member Henry Panowitsch and I broadcast seeded the plot with a mix of grasses and forbs. As expected, 2018 produced a typical first-year prairie project – a not-so-beautiful prairie. There were signs of desired plants, however, and this spring (2019) we mowed it. We are anxious to see what comes up and mow again throughout the growing season.

We may add some seedlings or transplants.

To allay concerns that the lot was just a neglected “weed patch,” a sign was posted announcing our intended results.

In the fall of 2018, we were contacted by Matt Nelson, a high school science teacher in New Ulm. The school is relatively new (maybe 3 years old) and outside of his classroom is a space designed to be an “outdoor classroom.” Matt wants to make it a prairie education tool. It consists of sections, a couple covered with rock and benches, and several with wood chips.

Once again, Panowitsch and I, accompanied by Jim Lynch, ventured to New Ulm and visited with Nelson. The three of us made an impromptu presentation to his students, and we then discussed options for the project. This time we decided to use a majority of the area for plant identification, which meant buying established seedlings. Because of the cost associated with this plan, we contacted the New Ulm

Chapter of the Izaak Walton League for assistance. They have funds from charitable gambling available for investment in their community. They enthusiastically volunteered to support the project and have contributed \$1,000.

We also hope to help Nelson develop and stock a library with prairie resource materials. Buoyed by enthusiasm for these two projects, we have recently joined a group at Minnesota (Mankato) State University (MSU) that is working on a teaching curriculum that will include prairie education. Julia Batten, a Mankato East High School teacher is a member of the MSU curriculum team. We are hoping for the prairie “bug” to infect Mankato schools soon.



*In the outdoor classroom, Jim Vonderharr shows the students the importance of watering prairie plugs. (Photo by Jim Lynch)*



# Cryptic Insects & Other Mysteries

By MJ Hatfield

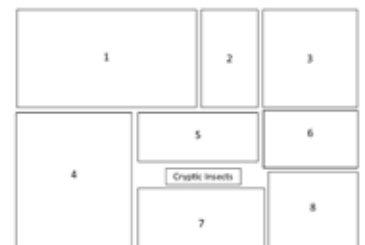
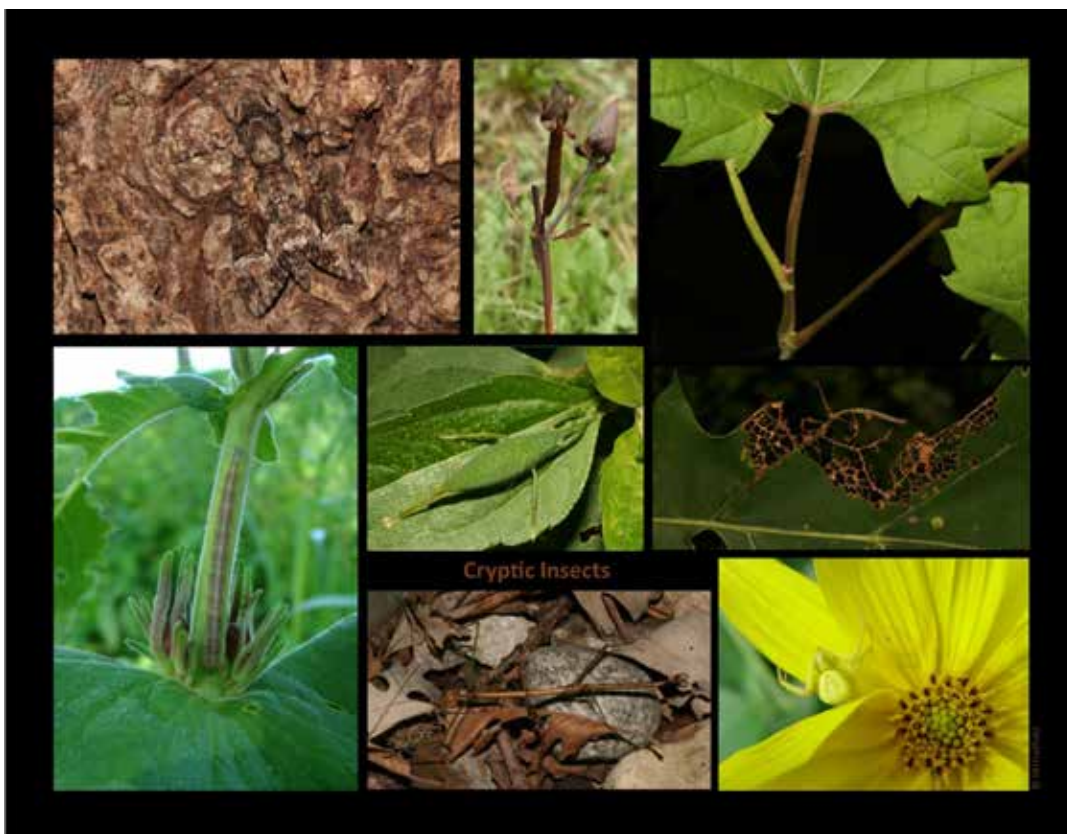
We may be most aware of pollinators, the insect visitors answering the come-on siren call of native and exotic flowers in need of pollen or nectar to ensure their survival. But what of the other insects, often hiding in plain sight, the herbivores voraciously chomping on flowers, leaves, stems and seeds, often host specific to a family, genus or even a species of plant? Do we notice them or signs of them?

This fall, occasionally walk slow and look close - even if there is work to be done. Discover herbivory you have probably previously seen but perhaps never noticed enough to wonder, who or what is doing that?

The on-line version of *The Prairie Promoter* has links to BugGuide with more information about each insect (or spider) in the collage.



Peering as eyes on last year's stiff goldenrod leaf are two galls of gall midges. We "see" where the midges lived and fed, and the leaf reacted by making the gall. (Photo by MJ Hatfield.)



- 1 Pink-spotted hawkmoth
  - 2 Gray half-spot
  - 3 Lesser grapevine looper
  - 4 *Sympistis forbesi*  
(no common name)
  - 5 Common true katydid nymph
  - 6 Caterpillar, undetermined
  - 7 Northern walking stick
  - 8 Whitebanded crab spider
- (Photos by MJ Hatfield.)

# 'The Elemental Prairie' – Book Review

By Chuck Wemstrom

**A**t a silent auction, I purchased "*The Elemental Prairie—Sixty Tallgrass Plants*," with Watercolors by George Olson (2003) and an essay, "The Running Country" by John Madson (the essay is originally from *Audubon* magazine, 1972).

I bought it for the beautiful, full-page paintings of 60 of the most well-known prairie plants. Each painting is an absolutely beautiful work of art. I only wish the book were coffee table size, the bigger the better, the paintings are just wonderful.

Most people drive or walk by a prairie restoration or a prairie remnant and all they see are weeds. Olson sees the beauty in each individual plant; each one is unique.

In the intro, he briefly (too briefly) describes his work. He gathers one or two species, takes them to his studio, "poses them," does a preliminary drawing or two, perhaps does a small sketch and then experiments with paint. Working against time, he sketches his plant one more time and then creates "a finished work of art."

He was a professor of art at the College of Wooster in Ohio for 37 years. When he studied native plants, he not only studied light and color, the elements of an artist, but he also learned from the "cumulative library of botanical associations, stories, literary references, practical uses, symbolism, and folklore."

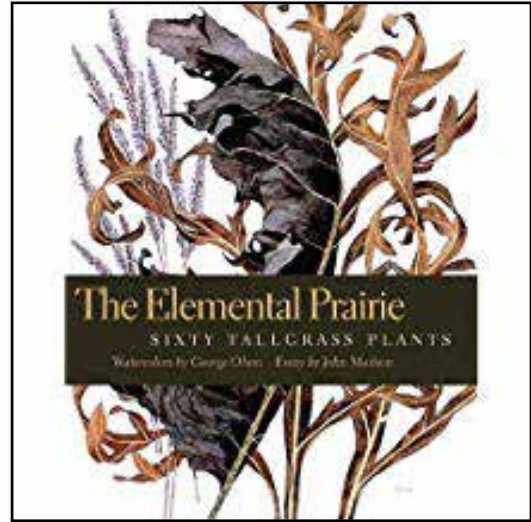
One of his favorite flowering plants is the purple coneflower. And one of his favorite images of the coneflower is a hand-colored engraving from the first volume of William Curtis' *Botanical Magazine*, published in London in 1787. Like a good teacher, he can tell us all of this without sounding too esoteric.



Blue gentian drawing by Olson.

Then he presents his paintings. Every night for the last week or so I have been looking at, studying, admiring and falling in love with each and every plant.

The essay, "The Running Country," is by Madson. I'm embarrassed to say I had never heard of him.



Book cover: *The Elemental Prairie—Sixty Tallgrass Plants*

The University of Iowa Press calls him "the father of the modern prairie restoration movement." His landmark book, "Where the Sky Began," originally published in 1982, they claim is a "classic tome and will serve as inspiration to those just learning about the heartland's native landscape and rekindle the passion of long-time prairie enthusiasts."

I asked a Prairie Enthusiast about his book, and she quickly answered, "A book I read about 30 years ago. I loved it...I do recommend it to others."

After reading this short essay, I'm going to get a copy of Madson's book. One of the most interesting parts of the essay is his discussion of the role of fire in the life cycle of a prairie. Madson believed that "fire was an effect of prairie rather than a cause." He wrote that prairies are the result of low rainfall, evaporation from strong constant winds, low relative humidity and high temperatures. This is a much more complex and interesting scenario than simply fire.

Madson advocated that prairie remnants are important but that the remaining large pieces of prairie are essential. A true prairie needs to have the horizon and the prairie meet. He reminded his readers that human history is part of the prairie's history. He describes a cemetery that had been abandoned over 100 years ago, and the prairie had come back. His poignant description is breathtaking.

The two parts of the book fit together nicely. Madson gives us the overview, the history of the plants and the people who have interacted with them over the years. Olson focuses on the beauty of the individual plants. The book will give newbies a great introduction to the world of prairies and experienced enthusiasts a sense of renewal and added inspiration.



# Member Profile – Tom & Kathie Brock

By Willis Brown

What do TPE member and emeritus professor Tom Brock have in common with rock-n-roll star Steve Miller? In addition to never hearing of the other, they both were awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees from UW-Madison in May.

Tom received the degree for his pioneering work on thermophilic (heat-loving) bacteria he had isolated and characterized from the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park. He was also recognized for the work he and his wife Kathie Brock did in the restoration of their property, Pleasant Valley Conservancy (PVC). In a relatively small area (140 acres) they have restored several ecotypes- wetland, prairies, oak savanna and oak woods.

(Miller, as you might suspect, was honored for his music.)

In 1980 and 1984, Tom and Kathie Brock purchased the PVC property in two separate transactions primarily for recreation. Sometime later, when Kathie was volunteering for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), she heard about oak savannas - the critically endangered ecosystem once common in southern Wisconsin.

Tom also recalled seeing side-oats grama on the property and remembering it was a prairie plant. The presence of large bur and white oaks with the prairie plants suggested

PVC once was an oak savanna. Overtaken by honeysuckle and buckthorn, and other invasives, the Brocks turned their property from recreation to re-creation of the oak savanna and prairie.

They went all in starting in 1997, going so far as to hire the town of Vermont crew for a week to remove trees along the south slope below a prairie remnant (still referred to as *Kathie's Prairie*). They also had their first prescribed burn that year and hired some



Tom Brock

additional help. Soon after, in 1999, they hired Paul Michler and myself to cut and treat buckthorn. Our equipment in those days was marginal - one small Stihl brush cutter, a spray bottle of Roundup and a Geo Tracker - all borrowed from the Brocks.

In those early days, Kathie would sometimes locate desirable species along nearby roadsides and collect the seeds. One day she found a new species for us to collect. Before spreading the seed, she took a sample to Madison for positive identification. That proved fortunate as this was the first time any of us had encountered Japanese hedge parsley.

Rather than burning, large logs from the cleared trees, the Brocks would leave logs by the side of the road for neighbors to take for firewood. Some cherry and walnut logs were given away for lumber.

If you visit PVC, you may notice a relatively high number of paper birch in a fire-dependent area. Kathie likes these trees, so the area around them are cleared to avoid damage by fire. Happily, the birch seem to be good habitat for red-headed woodpeckers, a state endangered bird.

Tom and Kathie treated this property like a huge experiment. They kept extensive notes and have taken numerous photographs over the years. The property is divided into several management areas. A plant species list was prepared initially with about 300 species identified. A plant survey in 2008 identified 493 species present at PVC.

A geology professor was invited to come out to describe the geology. Once most of the invasive trees were removed, all trees over 10 inches DBH (a forestry term describing diameter at breast height) were tagged and geolocated. Over 4,000 trees were mapped this way and data entered as to



Kathie Brock





size, species and whether dead or alive. This data was useful in showing the extent of bur oak blight at PVC Tom reported in the April 2018 edition of *The Prairie Promoter*.

In addition, many trees were present in aerial photos from the 1930s. Some of the larger oaks have been aged, and the oldest is over 200 years

old. For several years, starting in 2003, Tom and Kathie hired summer interns to continue the restoration work. Always the professor, Tom would present a lecture on various topics on restoration during lunch. They are also willing to have research done on their land (with approval), including using plant hormones to control reed canary grass, or the study of great blue lobelia.

Tom conducted his own research on controlling invasives such as sumac and honeysuckle. He has published results of his work in *Restoration Ecology* and *The North American Prairie Conference Proceedings* in addition to *The Prairie Promoter*. They are always willing to share their experiences and show their results to various groups such as Madison Audubon Society, Blue Mounds Area Project, and Land Trust Alliance among others. They have guided tours of their property annually on Labor Day. They also host group tours to identify birds, butterflies and other fauna and flora.

Over the years, Kathie has propagated desirable plants from seed that were not present or present in small numbers such as purple milkweed, a state endangered plant. Purple milkweed appeared on their property shortly after initial clearing of non-savanna species. She transplanted the seed-

lings to appropriate areas, flagged them to determine survival rates and watered them if needed. In addition, Kathie has compiled data and produced a table of the best time of year to collect seeds from individual species.

They've collected and/or traded seeds with Goose Pond (Madison Audubon), Swamplovers and others. The result is a




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In those early days, Kathie would sometimes locate desirable species along nearby roadsides and collect the seeds. One day she found a new species for us to collect. Before spreading the seed, she took a sample to Madison for positive identification. That proved fortunate as this was the first time any of us had encountered Japanese hedge parsley.

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fabulous example of oak savanna (with added birches), remnant goat prairie, wetland, restored prairie and oak woodlands. The property was dedicated a State Natural Area on June 6, 2008. While Tom and Kathie received some money from grants, they paid for this beautiful restoration project essentially with their own money from which we all benefit and are grateful.

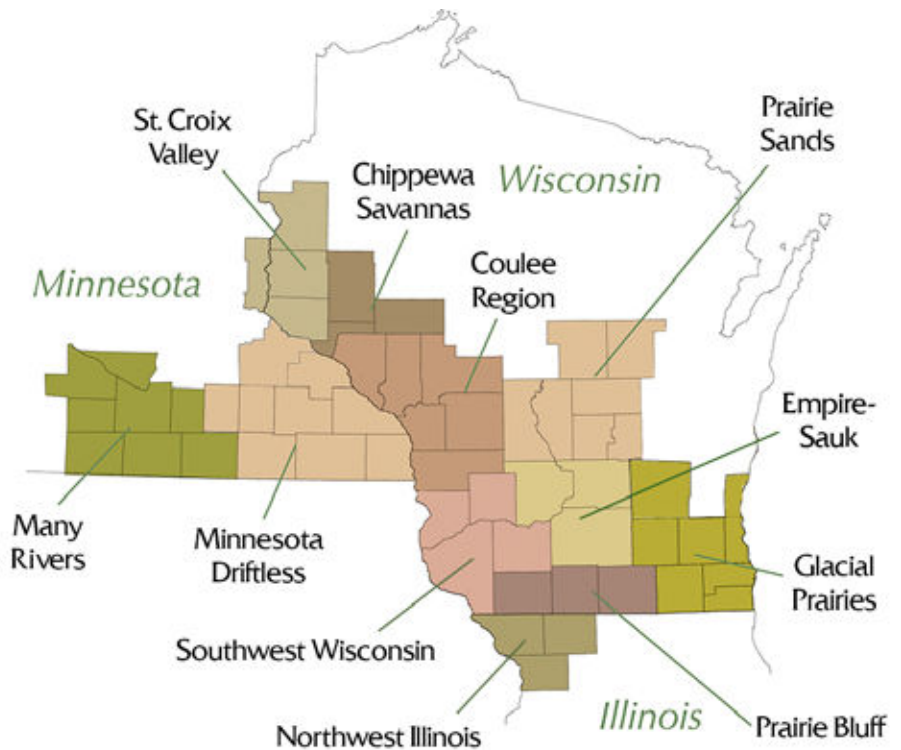
## Salvaging Black Earth (Rettenmund) Prairie

About five miles north of PVC is Black Earth Prairie (BEP). It's a prairie remnant of spectacular diversity. Previously owned by TNC, BEP was suffering from benign neglect because, as a relatively small property for TNC, there were only 1-2 volunteer work parties each year. The southern end of this 17-acre prairie had been severely taken over by brush.

Tom and Kathie gave TNC money in 2003 to have the brush removed by contractors. They also restored the area by the entrance, which had become mainly brome grass. They then took over stewardship of the prairie in 2005 by hosting monthly work parties to continue controlling invasives, collecting seeds and managing controlled burns. Due to the unusual configuration of the property, burning only within the boundary was difficult, so they convinced the neighboring landowner to include part of his pasture in the burn unit. This produced an unintended benefit with the appearance of copious little bluestem and butterfly milkweed in the pasture. TNC transferred BEP to TPE in 2007. Tom and Kathie are the site stewards to this day.

Tom keeps a blog about PVC, found at [pleasantvalley-conservancy.org](http://pleasantvalley-conservancy.org). Tom recently compiled a history of the work performed over the years entitled *Restoring a Fragile Landscape*. The two volumes can be readily downloaded from their website. While the number of pages may seem daunting, they consist primarily of photographs, and one can quickly discern how much Tom loves controlled burns. PVC is open to the public. There are several hiking trails and even a boardwalk to access the wetland. Check it out if you can.

# Chapter Updates



## Chippewa Savannas

Caroljean Coventree

Co-hosting the annual TPE conference in March kept us hopping this winter. Special thanks to all our sponsors, speakers, donors and volunteers who worked the conference; you made it happen. We learned about climate change affecting our prairies, birding by sound, networking across generations, the connection between keeping good records and successful restoration projects, and more. We made enough money to cover expenses and fund some new equipment. Our thanks to all participants!

We recently created job descriptions for chapter leadership, which has helped us recruit some new leaders. We have a number of open positions you can view on our website. Join us. We've a great group. In April, we elected a new Chapter Executive Board. Returning folks include Amy Delyea-Petska as Communication Specialist, Annemarie McClellan as Secretary, Kathy Ruggles as Treasurer, Mark Leach as Scientist and Interim Board Director, and myself as President. New members include Matt Wysocki as Land Manager and Ingmar Amberson as Youth Representative. Ingmar has also become our chapter Webmaster, keeping our webpage updated.

Our management activities at Dobbs Landing continue. After creating firebreaks during a workday last fall, we had a wonderful burn this spring and seeded new grasses. This

winter our former president Kathy Stahl worked with Jessica Schoen, the Conservation Planner at Dunn County, to land a \$20,000 grant from the Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund for more prairie restoration. We are excited about restoring another area of this collaborative project.

This summer, we will continue counting plants and butterflies at Dobbs as part of the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program. If you are interested in helping with the surveys contact us at [theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com](mailto:theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com)

This spring, we held a burn-training class with 20-plus in attendance, including a class of young people. Although it rained that day, we later held prescribed burns at the Voss property near Eau Claire and at Simply Dunn in Downs-ville.

John Thomas created a new oak frame for the touring display we use to publicize TPE-CSC at public events. Joe Maurer, another former president, is working with Delyea-Petska to complete the new display. We are fortunate to have their creative energy for this project.

Our Tiffany Bottoms spring fundraiser was rained out, but we rescheduled for Sept. 14. We also have a date for next spring's event - May 16, 2020. Mark your calendars for fun at this fabulous state natural area with our experts in forestry, birds and prairie management.



# Empire-Sauk

Grace Vosen

## Moely Volunteers Honored at Conference

The stewards of Moely Prairie received our chapter's "Volunteer of the Year" award at this spring's TPE conference. Rich Henderson presented the award, which honored the work of volunteers Amy and Rick Chamberlin, Paul Anderson and Denny Connor.

Moely sits just northwest of the village of Prairie du Sac, Wis. It's a sand prairie typical of the original Sauk Prairie, which once covered the land occupied by Prairie du Sac and neighboring Sauk City. Locally, Moely is known for a bountiful crop of prairie smoke. Its site stewards are dedicated both to documenting the native plant community and to further restoring it.

Dedication is required at this site where brush has grown so thick that volunteers refer to one area as "the jungle." But Moely's site stewards are remarkable not only for their brush-cutting prowess but for their outreach efforts in the local community. The chapter member who nominated them for this award cited their work with volunteers, local residents and civic groups.

In addition, the Moely stewards are proponents of citizen science and education. Four interns from Sauk Prairie High School will spend this summer at Moely tracking monarch butterfly populations.

In response to the award, Amy Chamberlin wrote:

*"This recognition was so deeply appreciated but also unexpected as we truly have done this work from our hearts, day*



Three of the four award-winning volunteers are (L-R) Rick Chamberlin, (author Robin Wall Kimmerer), Amy Chamberlin and Paul Anderson. Denny Connor is not pictured. (Photo by Curt Meine)

*in and day out... We are even more committed and passionate about restoring Moely Prairie moving forward."*

Prairie enthusiasm is alive and well at Moely as these volunteers pursue their mission of "putting the prairie back into Prairie du Sac."

Follow the progress at Moely Prairie by liking their Facebook page: For the Love of Moely Prairie.

## Prairie Bluff

Tom Mitchell

### Land Protection

Thanks to your contributions, we have reached our fundraising goal to purchase six additional acres of remnant prairie at Avon Ridge in Rock County. Your generous donations, plus matching Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds from the Wisconsin DNR, will allow TPE to acquire Foslin Bluff, which is adjacent to the 16.5 acres we own in the Town of Avon. Volunteers from Prairie Bluff Chapter manage all eight TPE sites in Rock and Green counties.

### Land Management

The chapter's burn season ended in May with our 20th prescribed fire of spring 2019, a difficult year for planning an ambitious schedule, with fewer than usual consecutive sunny, dry days. We put fire on the ground at 31 units, a total of 144 acres, all without accident or incident. Four of these sites are TPE-owned properties – Skinner Prairie, Vale Prairie, Iltis Savanna and Muralt Bluff – with the majority of the others privately owned by members of the chapter.

Thanks to our crew members: Chris Roberts, Steve Hubner, Jerry Newman, Jim Freymiller, Harvey Klassy, Gary Kleppe, Denny and Diana Oostdik, Frank Grenzow, Ralph Henry, John Ochsner, Nick Faessler, Beth Kazmar, Fred Faessler, Becky Kruse, Mike Davis and Tom Mitchell. Prairie Bluff Chapter has conducted 210 prescribed fires in the 11 years since we began record-keeping in 2009.

### Education

The TPE mission statement starts with land protection and land management and ends with education. The chapter has been participating for several years in Green County Conservation Days, held in spring and fall at Barry Prairie in Honey Creek Park on the west side of Monroe. Invited are all the fifth graders in Green County, public and private schools in Monroe, Juda, Albany, Monticello and New Glarus, so over the years we have introduced prairie conservation to hundreds of students and teachers.

Tonya Gratz, conservation technician with the Green County Land and Water Conservation, organizes the outdoor event. Chris Roberts, chapter president, and original prairie enthusiast John Ochsner were featured in an article in the Crops section of Agri-View, a newspaper insert from an agriculture website in a story by Mary Hookham that was



datelined Monroe, Wis., with the lead: “School kids in Green County are experiencing nature each spring and fall at Honey Creek Park in Monroe.” The writer interviewed Gratz, who explained that the school kids rotate through 10 educational stations to learn about nature and conservation. Other topics include fish, soil, trees, bees, birds, artifacts and watersheds. “This might help get them interested in something they wouldn’t otherwise be exposed to. Maybe we are opening new worlds to these students,” Gratz said in the story.

Other outreach and educational projects for this chapter in recent months include the annual Memorial Day event at Green’s Prairie Cemetery, where we join with the cemetery association to highlight the site’s rich natural and cultural history. Veterans of the War of 1812, Black Hawk War and Civil War are buried in the pioneer cemetery that we maintain with prescribed fire.

Beloit native Lytton Musselman’s informative and entertaining program about fire ecology at a longleaf pine savanna that he manages in Virginia was the topic of our May chapter meeting at Monroe Public Library. A botany professor at Old Dominion University, Lytton conducted plant surveys in Rock County during the 1960s as an undergraduate at Beloit College.

We led two well-attended TPE field trips this spring to Skinner Prairie and Meinert Prairie, our newest preserves,

both donations in 2018. Chapter vice president Rob Baller will offer his PowerPoint burn training session again in the fall of 2019. Upon completion of this one-day, indoor lesson, new crew can join TPE fire crews and gain valuable experience on the fire line.

## Prairie Sands

Ray Goehring

### Where’d You Get Those Peepers?

The May 4th weather was beautiful, the water was high, and the peepers came out in mass to serenade an intimate group of nature lovers at “Frogs, Bog and Hot Dogs,” a guided walk by Prairie Sands Chapter members Shelley and David Hamel at their Westfield bog. As the group walked the boardwalk and the slope surrounding the bog, the Hamels shared their knowledge of how the topography of rolling dry hill oak savanna created the conditions for this very special pitcher plant bog that hosts not only spring peepers but a long list of unique wildlife.



Walking the boardwalk. (Photo by Dory Owen)



David Hamel has purchased a remote microphone, as was voted on and agreed to during last December's chapter meeting, and this will be available for use at our next chapter field trip on July 21 at John Shillinglaw's Mekan Prairie.

Mark your calendars! Another fall Prescribed Burn Training will be offered this year on Oct. 26 and 27 by Jeb Barzen. He will offer training for both crew members and for more advanced fire leadership. More details will follow closer to the dates.



The hikers who explored the bogs & frogs are (seated L-R) Linda Baumann and David Hamel (standing L-R) Fred Wollenburg, Joan and John Klem, Karen Wollenburg, Karen Oberhauser (Director, UW Arboretum) and Shelley Hamel. (Photo by Dory Owen)

## Southwest Chapter

Jack Kussmaul

Things have been relatively quiet at the Southwest Chapter this spring and early summer. Various work parties were scheduled and then cancelled due to snow and/or mud. Weather was not cooperative for getting burns done, though we did get them in, among other places, at Thomas Wet and at Eldred.

Walter Mirk continues to plug away at Double Oak, Linda Lynch at Sylvan Road and Gary Eldred and his crew at Iris Drive. On May 25 we did get a small crew at Eldred Prairie to conduct our annual war against crown vetch. We found two fawns and the skeleton of one grown deer – the beginning and the end of the life cycle.

We may just be experiencing the calm before the storm. Our chapter will be hosting the TPE picnic at Gays Mills on Sunday, July 21, and co-hosting the conference and banquet in Platteville on Feb. 29, 2020. Work has begun on both.



Fawn hidden at Eldred Prairie (Photo by Jack Kussmaul)



Thomas Wet prairie burn (Photo by Steve Querin-Schultz)



# St. Croix Valley

Evanne Hunt

## TPE at Green Day

Chapter member Barb Bend was one of the presenters at Green Day in River Falls, Wis., this year.

It was a beautiful, sunny spring day in May. Students enjoyed the Zap Board, which has both plant and some pollinator identification possibilities. After a discussion of native plants, their critical environmental role, and the importance of pollinators, the students were sent out to collect pollen with their Q-tips. There was a beautiful lawn of dandelions nearby with enough pollen and picking for 90+ students.

This event was organized by Aleisha Miller from St. Croix County Resource Management Department for the Montessori elementary and pre-schools in River Falls. There were stations set for both the morning and afternoon. Students engaged in hands-on activities focusing on water bugs, watershed, water cycle, invasive species, bird identification, senses activities and pollinators.

The day was a Who's Who of environmental resources in the area with presenters from the St. Croix Birding Club, Pierce County Land Conservation Department, TPE, St. Croix County Resource Management, St. Croix River Association, City of River Falls and individuals who volunteered their time.



*Kids learn about prairies and show off their pollinator Q-tips.  
(Photos by Karen Olson)*



## Prairie Days

The chapter hosted our annual celebration of prairies on June 1. This year, we moved the date to June from August to take advantage of Free Admission Day at Willow River State Park.

There were wildflower and bird hikes, bee and snake exhibits, The Prairie Enthusiast's movie and more. Dr. Stanley Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison gave his presentation: "What in the World Have We Done to Deserve All These Cranes?" He described the remarkable recovery of our Midwestern Sandhill Cranes, his research on their migratory behavior and the possibility of a crane hunting season.



*Tim Halvorson helps kids toss bison chips at Prairie Day.  
(Photo by Evanne Hunt)*





*Future prairie fire crews learn the basics at Prairie Day.  
(Photo by Evanne Hunt)*

## Camp St. Croix

Once again, the chapter helped the YMCA Camp in Hudson maintain its prairie. On April 25, a large group of volunteers conducted a prescribed burn of the three-acre north unit. (The Camp has four units that are burned in a four-year rotating pattern.)

Thanks to Alex Bouthilet, Bill Ramsden, Mike Miller, Susan Goode, Tim Halvorson, Loren Haas, Prescott Bergh, Mike Perry, Heidi Reinhardt, John Arthur and Evanne Hunt. In addition, Mary Welke came as an observer to take pictures for her art projects.

As usual, we had an enthusiastic audience!



*Fire, fun and friends at YMCA Camp. (Photos by Mary Welke)*

# The Prairie Enthusiasts



## Prairie Promoter Field Trip Guide: August - October, 2019

The Prairie Enthusiasts Field Trip Guide is a way to identify opportunities to get out on the prairie and enjoy a guided hike. **Full details and directions** are available on our web-site at [www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org), or call the office at 608-387-1873.

*Contact your tour leader if you have a question about the trip or if the weather is questionable.*

### Aug. 8, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

*Sugar River Oak Savanna, Dane County, Wis.*

This TPE preserve is a highly diverse 9-acre oak savanna with nearly 400 native plant species. It still shows a few signs of past use as a pasture, but 43 years of near annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery. False foxglove, woodland Joe-pye-weed, and many other mid-summer savanna/woodland wildflowers should be in full bloom.

*Trip leader: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065*



*Bur oak and savanna at Pleasant Valley Conservancy. (Photo by Kathie Brock)*

### Aug. 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*"Prairie Days," Simply Dunn, Downsville, Wis.*

After a welcome, we start with two workshop time slots with concurrent sessions. Conservation easements, starting a prairie planting and identification of prairie plants are possible topics. We'll eat a potluck lunch, listen to our keynote speaker and share some music. Prairie walks with experts on identification of birds and plants will follow. Free fun and information! To learn more, see our webpage at [www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/content.asp?contentid=137](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/content.asp?contentid=137)

### Aug. 10, 10:00 a.m. to noon

*Rush Creek SNA Goat Prairies, Crawford County, Wis.*

Come hike some of the largest hill prairies in Wisconsin! Characteristic hill prairie plants are found throughout a series of prairies on southwest facing slopes along the Mississippi River. Learn more about the site at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=170>.

*Trip leader: Jim Rogala, [rogala58@gmail.com](mailto:rogala58@gmail.com), 608-799-6344; call or text*

### Aug. 10, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*Sleepy Hollow Oak Opening, Crawford County, Wis.*

Steve Querin-Schultz, landowner and TPE member, will host a guided walk to view the early stages of an "oak opening" re-creation. For the past three years, Querin-Schultz has cleared and changed the character of these nine acres of land. Learn some of the techniques that Querin-Schultz has used to reclaim the land and how to implement these practices on your own property. Following the hike, refreshments will be served and Jim Schultz, from Clintonville, will present "The Secret Lives of Native Plants," which includes photos and stories of the bizarre and macabre activities that happen in native prairies.

*Hosts: Steve & Martha Querin-Schultz, [querin-schultz@hotmail.com](mailto:querin-schultz@hotmail.com), 608-872-2118, 608-220-8409 (cell), 43572 South Sleepy Hollow Rd, Gays Mills, Wis.*



## Aug. 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

West Dane Conservancy and Dessert, Dane County, Wis.

Enjoy a late summer evening hike through restoration of high quality remnant ridge prairies that have been managed for more than 40 years. TPE holds an easement on this privately owned site. There should be multiple species of gentian, goldenrod and asters flowering as well as lady's-tresses orchids in bloom. You are welcome to bring your dinner (arrive between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.) and eat at the tables in the shelter. Dessert will be provided after the tour. Join us and enjoy dessert in the twilight! *Land Trust Days* event.



Trip Leader: Doug Steege, 608-213-9641

## Aug. 31, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Kalschur Oak Savanna, Iowa County, Wis.

Come look for butterflies and flowers on this 19-acre preserve. It's topographically diverse with a south-facing aspect, and is covered by scattered oak trees and prairie openings. At the base of the slope, springs and ground water seeps flow into a stream-side wetland complex. So far, 243 native plant species have been identified on site. Rough blazingstar, and many other late-summer wildflowers should be in bloom.

Trip leader: Rich Henderson, [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net) or 608-845-7065

## Sept. 1, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Schurch-Thomson Prairie in late Summer, Iowa County, Wis.

Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies. Late summer wildflowers such as rough blazingstar, cream gentian, various prairie goldenrods and asters should be in full bloom. Be prepared for a long hike, some off trail.

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

## Sept. 2, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie, La Crosse County, Wis.

Warm season grasses and late summer blooming species such as asters, blazingstars, gentians and sunflowers will be on display along the old railroad right-of-way at this time of year. Learn more at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=184>

Trip leader: Jim Rogala, [rogala58@gmail.com](mailto:rogala58@gmail.com), 608-799-6344; call or text

## Sept. 2, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Rogala Prairies, La Crosse County, Wis.

Come see the results of management efforts to enhance and enlarge these recently protected hill prairies near Rockland. There are also prairie plantings on the lower slopes to see.

Trip leader: Jim Rogala, [rogala58@gmail.com](mailto:rogala58@gmail.com), 608-799-6344; call or text

## Sept. 2, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy Annual Labor Day Tour, Dane County, Wis.

This property contains prairie remnants, wetlands, and extensive oak savannas and has been under intensive management for the past 20 years. At the end of the three-hour trip, light refreshments will be served.

Trip Leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock, 608-238-5050 (home, preferred) or 608-225-8239 (cell, on day of hike) or [kmbrock@charter.net](mailto:kmbrock@charter.net) With Google Maps, search for 4609 Pleasant Valley Road, Black Earth, Wis. 53515

## Sept. 7, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Prairie Butterfly Identification –Moore Hill Road Prairie, Allamakee County, Iowa

This is a premier prairie invertebrate site, and the focus of this hike will be on the last prairie skipper of the season—the Leonard's skipper. Also, see how the landowner "micro-manages" to maintain prairie invertebrates and reptiles.

Trip leader: Armund Bartz, 563-544-4331

## Sept. 14, 7:00 a.m. to noon

Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area Train Ride, Buffalo County, Wis.

Join us on a train ride, and prairie and forest walks, with experts in birding, forestry and prairie management. This is a fund-raiser for the Chippewa Savannas chapter. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members.

Contact: [theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com](mailto:theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com) for more information.

## Sept. 14, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County, Minn.*

Join the Minnesota Driftless Chapter and the Wild Ones Twin Cities for a co-sponsored field trip. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people who represent a broad range of complementary interests and passions such as prairie conservation, native plant landscaping and pollinators. There will be multiple remnant and restored prairies and savannas sites available to explore, and mid-September wildflowers in bloom should include goldenrods, asters and sunflowers.

Contact: Steve Winter, [stephen.winter@okstate.edu](mailto:stephen.winter@okstate.edu) or 402-310-5460

## Sept. 21, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*Gentians at Hauser, Dane County, Wis.*

Hauser Road Prairie straddles a scenic high ridge north of Waunakee, from which the State Capital can be seen. We have a good chance of seeing three or four gentian species. In addition, a number of late-blooming species should still be in flower, such as goldenrods and several aster species. A variety of grassland birds could be present or migrating. Migrating monarch butterflies should still be present.

Trip leader: Randy Hoffman, 608-849-4502 or [greatnaturewi@gmail.com](mailto:greatnaturewi@gmail.com)

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To learn more, see our webpage at  
[www.theprairieenthusiasts.org](http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org)

Thanks for your interest and support of these native prairies. We hope to meet you out there.

You are welcome to bring friends.



*Photo of Frontenac State Park*



# Thank You Donors

We thank the following who donated to TPE between Feb. 9 - May 31, 2019  
These gifts include those from our annual appeal, are beyond membership dues  
and are truly generous and appreciated.

## \$1000 or more

Ray Douglas  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for a  
prescribed burn  
Ronald and Sheila Endres  
Compass Club  
Ronald and Sheila Endres  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter for  
Hauser Road Prairie  
Ronald and Sheila Endres  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter for  
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Nick & Linda Faessler  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin Addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Frank Grenzow  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Steve Hubner & Mary Zimmerman  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Kimberly Kreitingner & Eric Preston  
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John and Mary Thomson  
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prescribed burn  
Daniel Wallace  
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in Memory of Hugh & Jeanne  
Wallace

## \$500 - \$999

Ronald and Sheila Endres  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter  
for Schluckebier-Gasser Sand  
Prairies  
Daniel Erdman  
Fred Faessler  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge

Nathan Gingerich & Kristin  
Knoener  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin Addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Frank Grenzow  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
a prescribed burn  
Gary Kleppe  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Karen Oberhauser  
donation to the Empire Sauk  
Chapter  
Laureen Thorstad  
in memory of Laureen  
Thorstad

## \$100 - \$499

Peg Bredeson  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Vance Baker  
Barb and Jeb Barzen  
Bernard Buchholz  
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the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Kevin Dewan  
Ronald and Sheila Endres  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter  
for the Moely Prairie  
Rebecca Gilman and Charles  
Harmon  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
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Ridge  
Alice Gould  
Gudrun Jack  
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James & Suzanne Larson  
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Eric Rosenstock  
in memory of Laureen  
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to the Chippewa Savannas  
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to the St. Croix Chapter for a  
prescribed burn

## Under \$100

Barb and Jeb Barzen  
in honor of Anna Jahns  
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Michael and Janet Brandt  
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in memory of Laureen  
Thorstad  
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Martin & Annelisa Cleary  
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to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin Addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Candi Diaz  
Fred & Kate Dike  
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in honor of Tom Brock  
Sally Farrar  
James Foss  
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Ridge  
Paul Francuch  
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Ridge  
McLean and Daniel Gunderson  
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Ridge  
Kurt Peters & Elizabeth Hopp-  
Peters  
Steve Hubner & Mary  
Zimmerman  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
a prescribed burn  
Thomas C. Hunt  
Jessie Johanneck  
in memory of Laureen  
Thorstad  
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Ridge  
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to Avon Ridge  
William & Eloise  
Kuenzi  
Jack Kusmaul  
gift membership for  
Brian and Jill Cipra  
John Larson  
to the Prairie Bluff  
Chapter for the  
Foslin addition to  
Avon Ridge

Martha Livingston  
Paul & Marilyn Lokken  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
a prescribed burn  
Michele McGettigan  
in memory of Lauren  
Thorstad  
Tom & Jenny Mitchell  
in memory of Dorothy Gessert  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Tom & Jenny Mitchell  
gift membership for Bill  
Kleiman  
Lytton Musselman  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin Addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Christine Nelson  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Northwest Illinois Prairie  
Enthusiasts  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
John Ochsner  
Donald Osborne  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
a prescribed burn  
Carol J. Owens  
Joyce Powers  
in memory of Laureen  
Thorstad to the Empire Sauk  
Chapter  
Fred Retzlaff  
to the Prairie Bluff Chapter for  
the Foslin addition to Avon  
Ridge  
Kathleen Ruegsegger  
in memory of Laureen  
Thorstad  
Dan & Calico Schmidt  
Richard Stephens  
Josh Sulman  
in memory of Hugh Itlis  
Doug Thomas  
to the Empire Sauk Chapter  
Jacob Valentine, III

## Legacy Giving

Please consider The Prairie Enthusiasts in your will or estate plans. If you've already done so, please let us know, so we can thank you personally for ensuring future generations will have access to prairies and savannas. For more information please contact Chris Kirkpatrick, Executive Director at 608-638-1873 or [executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org).



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## TIME TO RENEW? *(check the renewal date printed above your address)*

Renew online by visiting [www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)  
or mail a check and the form below to:

**The Prairie Enthusiasts, P.O. Box 824, Viroqua, WI 54665**

**Questions?** E-mail Joe Rising (Communications Coordinator) at [TPE@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:TPE@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)  
or call us at 608-638-1873.

**Thank you!**

Name: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....

E-mail: .....

### **The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25+ Little Bluestem | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Blazing Star   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50+ Big Bluestem    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500+ Monarch        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100+ Shooting Star  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+ Compass Club |

*The Prairie Enthusiasts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,  
and contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*