



2024 Summer-Fall Field Trips

Empire-Sauk Chapter

If you plan to attend, please let the trip leader know at least 12 hours in advance, in case of changes in the schedule or cancelation due to severe weather, should they occur. Also contact them if you have questions.

July 13 (Saturday)

Pleasure Valley Conservancy

Dane Co., WI

Come for 2.5-mile hilly walk through remnant and restored oak savanna, prairie and wetland, with restoration management starting in 1991. Trip provides an opportunity to tour a privately owned, TPE easement protected, property.

Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Trip Leader:** Ken Wade or Pat Trochlell, 608-767-3111

Directions: 10747 Moyer Road, Blue Mounds. From US 18/151 near Blue Mounds take Cave of the Mounds Rd. past Cave of the Mounds. Take right on CTH F and proceed 2 miles past Brigham County Park then turn left on Moyer Rd proceeding 1/4 mile turning left at driveway at 10747 Moyer Rd.

July 14 (Sunday morning)

Butterflies & Wildflowers of Shea Prairie

Iowa Co., WI

Come spend a morning exploring Shea Prairie, a 100-acre unit in The Prairie Enthusiasts' Mounds View Grassland preserve. The site consists of dry and dry-mesic remnants of original prairie, a trout stream, ground water fed wetland restorations, fen seeps, ephemeral ponds, and floristically rich restored wet to mesic prairie. We expect to see Regal Fritillaries, Baltimore Checkerspot (if still in flight), and many other butterflies, dragonflies, a diversity of flowers (353 plant species are present), and other inhabitants of this extensive grassland. Long pants, a hat, insect repellent, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better!

Difficulty: 2 miles round trip with some uphill slopes and a couple possibly wet areas.

Time: 10:00 a.m.– Noon **Trip Leaders:** Donna Williams-Richter (SWBA) & Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, 1.5 miles west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles south. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

July 20 (Saturday morning)

Shea Prairie

Iowa Co, WI

Come explore remnants of dry bluff prairies and restorations of wetlands and wet to mesic prairie of the 100-acre Shea Prairie. This is a unit of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland that has undergone extensive stream and wetland restoration beginning in 2012. On the hike, we are likely to find the endangered regal fritillary butterfly along with many other butterflies, bumblebees, and dragonflies. A great diversity of high summer prairie wildflowers should be in bloom, including rosinweed, compass plant, rattlesnake master, prairie blazingstar, lilies, and many more. Be prepared for a long hike, some off trail. We recommend long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen, and water.

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or

tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, a mile and a half west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

July 25 (Thursday afternoon)

Schurch-Thomson Prairie

Iowa Co., WI

Come for a hike into a portion of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will see the progress being made in bringing back to life degraded remnant prairies, converting non-native cool-season grass to native prairie. We will be encountering rich displays of mid-summer prairie flowers. Along the way, will also have an opportunity to observe and hear uncommon grassland birds, as well as butterflies and bumblebees. Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and occasional steep slopes. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, long pants, sturdy shoes, and binoculars.

Difficulty: Moderate hiking over uneven terrain.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

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

Directions: Address is 8624 Reilly Road, Barneveld. From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to parking lot and kiosks at the end of the road (past the barn). (Note: A half mile down F from 18-151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight-ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

Aug. 3 (Saturday morning)

Shea Prairie

Iowa Co, WI

Come explore remnants of dry bluff prairies and restorations of wetlands, stream, and wet to mesic prairie of the 100-acre Shea Prairie. This is a unit of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland that has undergone extensive stream and wetland restoration beginning in 2012. A great diversity of high summer prairie wildflowers should be in bloom, including rosinweed, compass plant, rattlesnake master, prairie blazingstar, and many more. Be prepared for a long hike, some off trail. We recommend long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen, and water.

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or

tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, a mile and a half west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

Aug. 10 (Saturday morning)

Schurch-Thomson Prairie

Iowa Co., WI

Come for a hike into a portion of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will see the progress being made in bringing back to life degraded remnant prairies, converting non-native cool-season grass to native prairie. We will be encountering rich displays of mid-summer prairie flowers. Along the way, will also have an opportunity to observe and hear uncommon grassland birds, as well as butterflies and bumblebees. Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and occasional steep slopes. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, long pants, sturdy shoes, and binoculars.

Difficulty: Moderate hiking over uneven terrain.

Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

Directions: Address is 8624 Reilly Road, Barneveld. From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to parking lot and kiosks at the end of the road (past the barn). (Note: A half mile down F from 18-151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight-ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)

Aug. 24 (Saturday afternoon)

Shea Prairie

Iowa Co, WI

Come explore remnants of dry bluff prairies and restorations of wetlands and wet to mesic prairie of the 100-acre Shea Prairie. This is a unit of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland that has undergone extensive stream and wetland restoration beginning in 2012. A great diversity of late summer prairie wildflowers should be in bloom, including cream and bottle gentian, rough blazingstar, great blue lobelia, and many more. Be prepared for a long hike, some off trail. We recommend long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen, and water.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or

tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, a mile and a half west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it

joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

August 31 (Saturday morning) **Agaski Bluffs** Iowa Co., WI

This 38-acre private site has two high quality hill side prairies that are being cleared and recovered. It is adjacent to TPE's Swenson Bluff Prairie preserve. The false foxgloves should be in bloom.

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

Trip leader: Eric Preston (415-235-4182) and Kim Kreitinger

Directions: 7352 Mellum Road, Arena. There is limited parking at the end of the driveway and along the driveway.

Sept. 22 (Sunday afternoon) **Shea Prairie** Iowa Co, WI

Come explore remnants of dry bluff prairie and restorations of wetlands and wet to mesic prairie of the 100-acre Shea Prairie. This is a unit of TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland and has undergone extensive stream and wetland restoration beginning in 2012. A great diversity of late summer to early fall prairie wildflowers should be in bloom. We recommend long pants, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, waters, and a hat.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or

tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, 1.5 miles west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

Sept. 29 (Sunday afternoon) **Reviving a Lost Prairie Landscape – Mounds View Grassland** Iowa Co., WI

Come for a long hike into TPE's 830-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will see the progress being made at bringing back to life degraded remnant prairies, converting non-native cool-season grass to native prairie, renovating streams, wetlands, and seeps, and planting agricultural fields to prairie. We will be encountering rich displays of early fall prairie flowers. Along the way, will also have opportunities to observe many butterflies and bumblebees. Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and occasional steep slopes. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, long pants, sturdy shoes, and binoculars.

Time: Noon to 5:00 PM.

Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or

tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 8624 Reilly Road, Barneveld. From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County F (south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County), take F approximately 5 miles south. Turn right onto Reilly Road, and proceed to parking lot and kiosks at the end of the road (past the barn). (Note: A half mile down F from 18-151, pay close attention to the road signs, for F turns to the right & the straight-ahead road becomes County Z. Stay on F.)