

The Prairie Enthusiasts



TPE Field Trips

Spring and Early Summer
2007

See also the TPE web site
www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

Join us for informative tours of prairies, savannas, and open woodlands that range from high quality natural areas to newly begun restorations and plantings. Learn to identify the wildflowers and animals that inhabit these gems of nature, or come to simply enjoy the sites and sounds. These trips give you opportunities to see, first hand, the results of various management/restoration strategies & techniques, and a chance to share your interest in prairies by bringing a friend.

What to bring: Field trips generally proceed rain or shine (except for severe weather or unless otherwise noted), so bring appropriate clothing and apparel. A hat, long-pants, and sturdy footwear are recommended, along with sunscreen and insect/tick repellent. For long hikes, be sure to bring water, and, if it is an all-day event, something to eat.

Field Trip Leaders: Please contact Renae Mitchell, Executive Director at tpedirector@idcnet.com or 262-473-2956 for brochures to pass out to potential new members at field trips. Please keep a list of attendees and track your volunteer hours leading the trips. We appreciate your efforts and recognize this as a major focus of community outreach for The Prairie Enthusiasts. Have fun, be safe and thank you for your leadership!

NEXT FIELD TRIP FLIER: The next Field Trip Flier will cover dates July 14 – October 14, 2007

Please call trip leaders to confirm that the trip is still on.

- April 29 (Sunday)** Celebrate Spring. See Spring Flowers Grant County, WI
Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Dutchmans Britches, Ferns etc. Explore Rock Cliffs, Caves, Trout Stream, Black Locust eradication project. Moderate difficulty
Time: 1:00pm **Contact:** Rose and Jim Sime (608-831-9297)
Directions: Meet at the Blue River bridge on Bluff Rd. 0.4 mi. west of Iowa County Hwy "I", 2 1/2 mi. north of the intersection of "I" and Hwy 18 in Montfort WI.
- April 29 (Sunday)** La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie La Crosse County, WI
This is the first of nine scheduled hikes in 2007 to track the seasonal changes on remnant prairies along the bike trail. Local naturalist Bob Lee will lead the search for early bloomers such as Pasque Flower, Dwarf Buttercup, and Lyre-leaved Rock Cress. Bob will add his usual perspective, with anecdotes related to prairies and local history. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.
Time: 1:30 pm **Trip Leader:** Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse County) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).
- May 5 (Saturday)** Holland Sand Prairie La Crosse County, WI
We'll tour this 60+ acre parcel that is largely covered by prairie on the ancient sand terrace of the Mississippi River. Pasque Flower, Prairie and Bird's-Foot Violets, and Prairie Smoke are among the species likely to be in bloom. We will also be able to see the progress being made in the restoration efforts led by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, and discuss future plans for restoration. The walk will be near the road on fairly level terrain.
Time: 10:00 am **Trip Leader:** Jim Rogala (608-786-1855)
Directions: Exit McHugh Road off HWY 35 north of Holmen. Go west approx. 1/2 mi. & park on the south side of the road.

- May 5 (Saturday morning)** **Vale Prairie** Green County, WI
 In 1992, this 16-acre property became TPE's 4th preserve. It supports a small, but diverse prairie remnant with many rare species. We will look for signs of early spring wildflowers and sedges, and discuss the management needs and restoration plans for the site.
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 AM **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or cell 235-4165).
Directions: From Albany in eastern Green County, take Purinton Road west for 3.5 miles to Sneberger Road. Turn right (north) on Sneberger, & proceed approximately ½ mile. We will meet along the road & car pool into the preserve from there.
- May 5 (Saturday afternoon)** **Muralt Bluff & Oliver Prairie** Green County, WI
 First we will hike Muralt Bluff State Natural Area, a 62-acre property owned by Green County. This site has 50 acres of dry and dry-mesic prairie atop a low sandstone bluff capped by limestone. A pasture up until the mid 1970s, the prairie vegetation has been recovering very well with parts of the site now supporting good quality dry prairie. The site has a healthy population of the state-threatened Hill's thistle, and several rare prairie insects. It was designated a State Natural Area in 1977. The Prairie Enthusiasts' Iltis Savanna, adjoins this site. Next we will move on to Oliver Prairie which is a 4-acre jewel of a remnant. It supports both an exceptionally rich and intact prairie flora as well as a very rich assembly of prairie restricted insects. Purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1963 and then deeded to the University of Wisconsin, it has been a State Natural Area since 1967.
Time: 2:00 to 5:00 PM **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)
Directions: From Albany in eastern Green County, take Hwy 59 southwest 1.5 miles to County F (formerly Hwy 39). Turn right (north) onto F & proceed approx. 2 miles (caution: at 0.5 miles, County F turns west). The entrance to the Muralt parking lot is on the left (south) side of F. The parking lot is set back in. Pay close attention, for the entrance off of F is easy to miss.
- May 8 (Tuesday evening)** **Sand Prairie of Walking Iron County Park** Dane County, WI
 Come see spring wildflowers characteristic of sand prairie and oak barren. The highlights will include prairie smoke, violets, buttercups, puccoons, bluebirds, and maybe even a late blooming pasque flower or two. This site is managed jointly by volunteers of Dane County Parks and TPE.
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm. **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065).
Directions: From downtown Mazomanie, take Hudson St. west 1.2 miles and turn right (north) onto Beckman Rd. Go 3/4 miles on Beckman to parking lot on the right.
- May 12 (Saturday)** **Woodland Ephemeral Wildflowers** Iowa County, WI
 We'll see the rich array of plants that thrive in high quality forests before the trees leaf out. While not all will be in flower there should be blooms aplenty. We'll see common species like Bloodroot, Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Jacob's Ladder and Trout Lily. Rare plants will include Fire-pink, Gromwell, Shorts Rockcress, Great White Lettuce and Beak Grass. This tour involves hiking wooded hills, but nothing very difficult. We expect to take a morning hike of about 3 hours, and 1-2 hours after lunch.
Time: 10:00 to 3:00 pm **Trip Leaders:** Mark and Brenda Mittelstadt We would appreciate RSVPs as it helps us plan the hike. Please contact Brenda (608-212-7088) or Mark (608-935-3241) Mittelstadt to let us know, or for further information.
Directions: This property is located about 10 miles west of Mineral Point and 2 miles east of Rewey. Take Hwy 151 south from Mineral Point to Hwy A, then Hwy A about 6 miles to Cook-McFall Rd. (Cook-McFall comes up quickly over a hilltop. Look for it about 1 mile past the River.) Turn right onto Cook-McFall 1/4 mile, then turn right at the T-junction. The property entrance is the first gate on the right (#825). We can send you a map if you wish.
What to Bring: We will be crossing a river, up to 10" deep, so please bring appropriate footwear to cross, and you'll probably want another pair to hike (can leave your boots at the river). Please bring your own lunch and drinks, as our caterer is on vacation.
- May 13 (Sunday AM)** **Tour of Faville Grove Sanctuary** Jefferson County, WI
 Experience Madison Audubon Society's Faville Grove Sanctuary w/ resident managers David Musolf & Roger Packard. Participants will hike through northwestern Jefferson County's recessional glacial terrain while viewing its attendant array of plant communities (wetland, prairie, sedge meadow, perched tamarack bog, fen, savanna, & woodland). Expect to see Sandhill Cranes, various migratory waterfowl & songbirds, hawks, grassland birds & other resident species. A joint trip w/ MAS.
Time: 7:15 to 10:00 AM. **Trip leader:** David weekdays at (608-265-4562)
Directions: From Madison travel east on I-94 to the Lake Mills/Waterloo exit, then go 3 miles north on Hwy. 89 to the old farmstead at N7710 Hwy. 89.
- May 14 (Monday evening)** **Westport Drumlin SNA** Dane County, WI
 Come visit Westport Drumlin State Natural Area. This glacial drumlin has diverse, high quality prairie on a range of substrates from well drained sand and gravel to dry-mesic soils on a beautiful glacial drumlin ridge with NW and SE facing slopes. The bird's-foot violets, blue-eyed grass, wood sorrel, wood betony, and other spring wildflowers should be in full bloom.
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM. **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)
Directions: Take Hwy 113 north from Madison. From the stoplight with County M proceed on 113 for 1.8 miles to Bong Rd. Turn right (east) onto Bong and proceed 0.8 miles. We will be parking along the side of the road and hiking in from there.

- May 16** (Wednesday evening) **Schluckebier Sand Prairie** Sauk County, WI
 Visit the 23-acre State Natural Area prairie owned by The Nature Conservancy & now managed by TPE (Empire-Sauk Chapter). This is a sandy, dry & dry-mesic prairie. Expect to see bird's-foot violet, prairie smoke, & other early-blooming prairie plants.
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM **Contact:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)
Directions: Take US Highway 12 west of Sauk City, turn left (west) onto County PF. Schluckebier is 1.5 miles down PF, on the south (left side) of the road.
- May 19** (Saturday) **Butenhoff Prairie Baptismal Celebration Tour** Green County, WI
 The Prairie Bluff Chapter's newest 15-acre dry prairie remnant in Green County, WI. The former pasture has not been grazed for at least 50 years, and still contains short-grass prairie flora. Expect to see one or two cream wild indigo ("Baptismal flowers" *Baptisia bracteaeta*), prairie violet (*Viola pedata*), yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*) hoary and fringed puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens* and *L. incisum*) and shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*). Harrison and Marion Butenhoff owned this rounded hilltop remnant before they sold it to the Green County Conservation League in 1988. The Prairie Enthusiasts bought it in 2007.
Time: 1:00 -2:00 PM **Contact:** John Ochsner 608-862-3816 and Nick Faessler 608-897-4993
Directions: Five miles northeast of Monroe (WI), roughly ¼ mile northwest of the intersection of CTY FF and Ladwig Rd. in Sylvester Township From Monroe: Travel north on HWY 69 three miles. Turn east (right) onto CTY FF and snake all over creation about 4 miles. About ¼ mile before the intersection with Ladwig Rd, look for parked cars on the roadsideThe prairie is in the distance to the north. We will ferry tourists to the remnant via pickup trucks over our unmarked rough farm lane easement shortly after 1 pm. If the day is hot we may adjourn afterwards several miles east to John Ochsner's farmhouse for refreshments.
- May 19** (Saturday) **Butterflies of Bauer-Brockway Barrens** Jackson Co., WI
 Bauer-Brockway Barrens is a State Natural Area with many species of butterflies restricted to barrens habitat. Eleven species have been found there that are on the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working List (Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern). Butterfly species that could possibly be observed include the Olympia Marble, Silvery Blue, Gorgone Checkerspot, Cobweb Skipper, Dusted Skipper, all five species of Elfins found in the state, and six species of Duskywings. Spring butterfly watching is always dependent upon the weather so that it is impossible to predict what may be flying for sure, but it is always worth the trip to this site. The site also has a good diversity of showy prairie and sand barren plants such as New Jersey tea, wild lupine, and cream wild indigo. We will explore several other areas if we have time. Please bring close-focusing binoculars if you have them. (Several extra pairs of binoculars are available for use). The trip leader is Mike Reese who maintains the wisconsinbutterflies.org website. In case of poor weather for butterfly watching, the back up date is Sunday (May 20). This a joint trip of Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM **Trip leader:** Mike Reese (920-787-2341).
Directions: Meet in Jackson Co. at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of West Bauer Rd. and Brockway Rd. From the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 54 in Black River Falls, go east on Hwy 54 approximately five miles to Brockway Rd. Turn right on Brockway and drive 2.5 miles south to West Bauer Rd. OR in the Madison area, meet to carpool and leave at 9:00 a.m. from the American Center Park and Ride. Take Hwy 151 northeast and exit on American Parkway. Head west and take East Park Boulevard to the right to the Park and Ride. Check the MAS website (www.madisonaudubon.org/audubon/) field trip page.
- May 20** (Sunday) **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
 Downy phlox, Hoary Puccoon, Columbine, Violets and Great Solomon's Seal are likely to be in bloom along the trail. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.
Time: 1:30 pm **Trip Leader:** Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse County) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).
- May 24** (Thursday evening) **Lots of Lupines** Dane County, WI
 See the results of ten yrs of prairie restoration. Progress has been made restoring several small severely degraded remnants. Plantings on old fields have been progressing nicely. Landowner will discuss the restoration techniques that have worked well & that have not. Over 200 prairie species are present. Over an acre of lupine will be blooming. It should be a spectacular sight.
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM **Trip leader:** Pat Handrick (608-832-8044)
Directions: Take Highway 18/151 west of Verona. Turn south on Highway G. Turn left on G and 92 at Mount Vernon. Travel a block and turn right on G. Travel up the big hill out of Mount Vernon. Past the top of the hill just as G curves to the right, turn left on Primrose Center Road. Continue south on Primrose Center Road. Cross Oak Grove Road. Continue another 0.5 miles. Turn right into the driveway at 959 Primrose Center Road. Drive up to the house.

- May 26** (Saturday afternoon) **Shea Prairie** Iowa County, WI
 Come see this newly acquired, 62-acre preserve of TPE (managed by Empire-Sauk Chapter). Shea Prairie is part of the Mounds View Grassland/Prairie Complex, a landscape-scale project of TPE that supports a rich array of grassland birds, original prairie sod, rare prairie and savanna species, cold water streams, springs, seeps and wetlands. Mounds View grassland is part of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a 50,000-acre landscape area of regional significance for grassland bird and prairie species conservation. Shea Prairie is currently a diamond in the rough with great potential for prairie, wetland, and grassland bird habitat restoration. Some tree and brush removal has occurred in recent years. We will explore the site's two nice dry-mesic remnants of original prairie and its trout stream, and discuss the management needs and restoration plans for the site. Shooting star, cream wild indigo, and other spring prairie flowers should be in full bloom. Bring binoculars for birds and butterflies as well.
Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM. **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065).
Directions: 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. We will be parking on the left (east) side of the road. Pull into the tractor access lane for parking.
- May 27** (Sunday afternoon) **Schurch-Thomson & Underwood Prairies** Iowa Co., WI
 Here is a chance to see 100,000 shooting stars in bloom. Come see this privately held complex of prairie remnants under management agreement with TPE (Empire-Sauk Chapter). This site is part of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a 50,000-acre landscape area of regional significance for grassland bird and prairie species conservation. The dry and dry-mesic prairies at this site are in a 400-acre sea of CRP grassland. Along with shooting stars, many other spring prairie flowers will be in bloom. It is also a great place for grassland birds and butterflies. So, bring binoculars. You will also have an opportunity to inspect one of TPE's seed production orchards.
Time: 1:00 to 3:30 pm. **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065).
Directions: From the junction of Hwy 18/151 and County F, south of Blue Mounds in western Dane County, take F south for approximately 5 miles to Reilly Road (right turn). Reilly is a dead end Road. Go to the end and park by the barn (Note: Be sure to stay on F. F makes a sharp right turn, while the straight ahead road becomes Z).
- June 1** (Friday) **Hayden Prairie Field Trip** Howard County, IA
 Hayden Prairie, just southwest of Chester, Iowa, is THE premier native tallgrass prairie preserve in our area. The floral show in early summer is spectacular. Join us for an evening of beauty and botanizing.
Time: 5:30 pm (carpooling) or 6:30 pm (at prairie) **Contact:** Joel Dunnette (507-269-7064)
Directions: Meet at 5:30pm near the Fleet Farm south gas station in Rochester, MN to carpool, or meet us at about 6:30pm at Hayden prairie's north parking area. To get to Hayden Prairie from Rochester, take Hwy 63 south across the MN/IA border, go past Chester about 4 miles, then take a right at County Hwy A23 (aka 50th St.), go 4-4.5 miles & the prairie is on your left.
- June 2** (Saturday) **State Trail Railroad Prairie in Sparta** Monroe County, WI
 Local naturalist Bob Lee will lead the search for small remnants of the original plant community along the bike trail in Sparta. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.
Time: 10:00 am **Trip Leader:** Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet at the trail headquarters on South Water Street in Sparta, WI. Take South Water Street 0.5 mile south off Highway 16 in Sparta
- June 2** (Saturday morning) **Pleasure Valley Conservancy** Dane County, WI
 The 226 acre conservancy includes wooded and open valley bottoms, streams, springs, wetlands, a manmade pond, rugged dolomite-capped hills underlain by sandstone with outcrops that provide scenic views of nearby Blue Mounds. Habitats include: dry oak savanna, oak woodlands, mixed hardwood forest, black-ash and black walnut bottomlands with forested seeps, sedge meadow, sedge fen, and floodplain forest. Formerly cultivated old fields have been planted to mesic prairie. Restoration activities have been carried out for 15 years. The conservancy supports a wide diversity of native flora and fauna that characterized the area before European settlement. Over 450 native plants species are present. Rare plants include the Wisconsin State Endangered nodding rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes crepidinea*), and the Wisconsin State Special Concern woodland boneset (*Eupatorium sessilifolium* L. var. *brittonianum* Porter), common skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*) and adder's-tongue (*Opioglossum pusillum*). Sixty-one species of birds have been noted on site during the breeding season, including the Wisconsin State Special Concern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Louisiana Waterthrush, along with the Wisconsin State Threatened Kentucky Warbler. Nine species of reptiles and 26 mammal species have been found including the Wisconsin State Special Concern pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*). Most of the conservancy is protected with a conservation easement held by TPE and Dane County. Trip includes walking 2 to 4 miles, some on rugged terrain.
Time: 9:00 AM **Trip leaders:** Ken Wade & Pat Trochlell, (608-767-3111)
Directions: Take USH 18/151 west from Madison to 5 miles west of Mt. Horeb. Turn right at Cave of the Mounds Rd. Go ¼ mile and turn right on CTH "ID" then immediately turn left on CTH "F" and continue past Cave of the Mounds. Turn right toward Brigham Co. Park and continue 2 miles on CTH "F" past the park. Turn left on Moyer Rd. Turn left after ¼ mile into paved private drive (10747 Moyer Rd.).

- June 5** (Tuesday morning) **Erbe Road Grasslands & Prairies** Dane County, WI
 Come explore and help inventory the birds and butterflies of the newest TPE preserve. We will also explore adjacent grasslands and prairies owned by Ed and Cheryl Goplin. Here is an opportunity to get out with bird expert Andy Paulios and pick up some tips on identifying birds by their songs and calls. This site has a wide diversity of grassland birds from Henslow's sparrows to upland sandpipers. Erbe Road is part of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a 50,000-acre landscape of regional significance for grassland bird and prairie species conservation. The outing will involve a couple miles of walking.
Time: 7:00 to 10 AM. **Trip Leader:** Andy Paulios (day time 608-264-6137).
Directions: Take US Hwy 18/151 west from Mt. Horeb to Erbe Road (1.3 miles west of Hwy 78). Turn left (south) on Erbe, and proceed 0.3 miles and park along the road.
- June 10** (Sunday) **Whitewater Wildlife Management Area Field Trip** Wabasha County, MN
 Join us for a trip into the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area to view lupine and possibly the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. This is a fun hike into an oak savanna area that is being restored. We can also hike up the large bluff adjacent to the savanna to see spring prairie flowers in bloom.
Time: 10am **Contact:** Jaime Edwards (507-252-4605)
Directions: Meet at the Beaver intersection of Cty Rd 30 (out of Plainview) and Cty Rd 74. Please wear long pants and shoes suitable for hiking on rough terrain. Hiking the bluff is strenuous, but the savanna portion is moderate. Bring drinking water as well. If you want a close-up of butterflies, a pair of close-focusing binoculars is helpful.
- June 10** (Sunday) **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
 Local naturalist Bob Lee will lead the search for time appropriate bloomers such as Hairy Puccoon, Golden Alexanders, Spiderwort, Solomon's Plume, Roses and Lupine. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.
Time: 1:30 pm **Trip Leader:** Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse County) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).
- June 10** (Sunday evening) **Prairie Spirit Farm Wildlife Sanctuary Tour** Dane Co., WI
 John Barnes has invited us on a tour of his Prairie Spirit Farm, which has recently been designated a wildlife sanctuary. For several years John has been managing his land southwest of Verona for wildlife by creating prairies and savannah, improving the woodlands and creating ponds. He has created a diversity of habitats, including dry-upland prairie, mesic prairie, wet meadows, ponds and savannah, and has improved the upland woods. While John shows us the results of his efforts over the years, we will be looking for a variety of birds now living there. This is a joint trip with Madison Audubon Society. Bring binoculars and comfortable walking shoes.
Time: 6:30 to 9:00 PM **Trip leaders:** Levi Wood & John Barnes (608-845-6026).
Directions: To carpool, meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Home Depot parking lot off Verona Road (Hwy 18 & 151) in Madison. Driving directions to Prairie Spirit Farm (1811 Spring Rose Road) are available online.
- June 14** (Thursday evening) **Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie** Dane Co., WI
 This site is a high-quality prairie remnant within the Driftless area. There will be outstanding displays of late spring/early summer flora. This site is owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed by The Prairie Enthusiasts (Empire-Sauk Chapter) under a formal agreement. Join us for an intimate view of this outstanding State Natural Area. This is a joint field trip with Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM **Trip leaders:** Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050) and Steve Richter.
Directions: Allow about 30 minutes driving time from the west side of Madison. Go west from Madison on U.S. Hwy 14 to the traffic light at Black Earth. Turn left (south) on Hwy 78 through Black Earth. At the south edge of town turn right (west) on County KP and F. About 1 mile west, turn left (south) on County F. Go about 200 yards to Fesenfeld Road. Turn right on Fesenfeld Road to the prairie entrance, about 300 yards west. Park on the north side of the road.
- June 16** (Saturday morning) **Sugar River Oak Savanna** Dane County, WI
 Come see a diverse 10-acre oak savanna. Although it still shows some signs of past use as a pasture, 31 years of annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery of native prairie and savanna vegetation. There are now nearly 400 native plant species present. There should be many species of flowers in bloom, and the first of the summer's butterflies on the wing. The large-stature legume, white baptisia, will be in full flower, and if there is good soil moisture and an overcast sky, the spiderwort display should be spectacular. This is a private site under management agreement with the TPE (Empire-Sauk Chapter).
Time: 9:00 to 10:30 am. **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065).
Directions: From the intersection of Co. Hwy M and PD (north of Verona and SW of Madison) take PD west 3.0 miles to Timber Lane, turn right (north) on to Timber Lane and then immediately turn left into first driveway. Proceed to the brick house (2845 Timber Lane). Park in mowed lawn.

- June 16 (Saturday)** **Pleasant Valley Cemetery Workday** Mower Co, MN
Pleasant Valley Township Cemetery is a pioneer cemetery located next to the Immanuel Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Mower County, MN. The historically significant site, which is owned and minimally maintained by the township, includes 2 acres of poetically nested prairie remnant. Prairie Smoke members visited the site in 2005 & discovered listed species including wild quinine, rattlesnake-master, cream & white indigo, PSC agreed to work cooperatively with local agencies (township, community, state non game program, master naturalists, genealogy & historical societies) in developing and implementing a stewardship plan. Please assist us in our first work day on the cemetery in removing parsnip.
Time: 10 am **Contact:** Bonnie Maffitt (507-367-4633)
Directions: Meet at 9:30am near the Fleet Farm South gas station in Rochester, MN to carpool, or meet us at 10:00 am at the entrance to the cemetery next to the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley Township in Mower Co (south 63 past Stewartville, Co Rd 8 to Co Rd 15 to 720th Avenue). Note: we will be working with parsnip, so dress accordingly and bring work gloves.
- June 17 (Sunday)** **Sand terrace prairie remnants of Wisconsin's West Coast** Grant Co. WI
Glacial meltwaters left the Mississippi River valley buried under up to 200 ft of sediment. This sediment, on which today's river flows, is primarily sand. Join us on a tour of SW Wisconsin's riverine sand prairie remnants. Expect to see a number of species approaching the eastern limit of their ranges.
Time: 3:00 PM
Directions: Meet at 13761 Cty X, Bagley, WI (DLS office, near entrance to Wyalusing State Park)
We will carpool to various remnants until folks are tired and hungry.
RSVP with Jesse Bennett via email (jesse@driftlesslandstewardship.com) or phone (608)996-2135 (Please confirm by 6/15)
- June 23 (Saturday morning)** **Grassland Birding** Iowa County, WI
Come explore the The Nature Conservancy's Thomson Prairie Preserve, looking and listening for grassland birds and prairie plants. Learn to identify by site and sound grassland birds such as bobolinks, upland sandpipers, western meadow larks, dickcissels, and many species of prairie sparrows. Thomson Prairie is part of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a 50,000-acre landscape area of regional significance for grassland bird and prairie species conservation. Be prepared for a long hike, and bring binoculars for bird and butterfly viewing. This is a joint field trip with the Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 7:00 to 10:00 AM **Trip leader:** Steve Richter & Dave Sample (608-257-1011).
Directions: Meet at the TNC's Thomson's Prairie Preserve parking lot. Take Co. Hwy F south from Blue Mounds. From the intersection of F and US Hwy 18/151, take F south for 2 miles to the small designated parking area for the TNC preserve (on the right, west side, of the road). (CAUTION: at about 1 mile south from 18/151, F turns to the right while Z goes straight).
- June 23 (Saturday)** **Medary Quarry Bluff Prairies** La Crosse County, WI
The Mississippi Valley Conservancy recently acquired this 475 acre property that includes several bluff prairies. This land is home to many threatened and rare plant and animal species. Many common hill prairie forbs will be in bloom. The walk will require some hiking, but be on fairly level terrain unless venturing up and down the hill prairies.
Time: 10:00 am **Trip Leader:** Jim Rogala (608-786-1855)
Directions: From La Crosse, travel east on Main Street up the bluff (street turns into Bliss Road). Continue to the left at the Alpine Inn near the top of the bluff, then turn left on CTH FA just after the crest. The hike will begin at the end of CTH FA.
- June 24 (Sunday)** **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
You're likely to encounter Prairie June Grass, Porcupine Grass, Penstemons, Tall Meadow-rue, Thimbleweed, and Coreopsis while walking the remnants along the bike trail. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.
Time: 1:30 pm **Trip Leader:** Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse County) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).
- June 27 (Wednesday evening)** **Prairie Home Estates** Dane County, WI
This unique Town of Middleton 121acre rural clustered subdivision contains 34 acres of planted prairie in three outlots of 5, 12, and 17 acres. The original planting done by the developer lacked diversity and proper preparation, however through the efforts of residence who performed intensive inter-seeding for several years using purchased and collected seeds the diversity of the planting has been increased to as many as 80 species in the 12-acre outlot. Come see what is now a wonderful display of showy prairie plants including Pale Purple Coneflowers in full bloom and many of your other color favorites.
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM. **Trip leader:** Richard Oberle (608-826-0559).
Directions: Go north on the beltline, as you are about to leave the Middleton/Madison area take the last exit onto Airport Road and go west (left turn) for a little over 2 miles. After going over the hill turn north (right) onto Ellington Way, take the next right onto Blazingstars Drive. Feel free to park in the driveway at 7428 Blazingstars Drive.

July 1 (Sunday) **Driftless Diversity** Grant Co. WI
 See the rare Tubercled Orchid, Bunch berry, Gold thread, Violets, Ferns, recovering prairie and wetland. Moderate difficulty
Time: 1:00 pm **Contact:** Rose and Jim Sime (608-831-9297)
Directions: Meet at the Blue River bridge on Bluff Rd. 0.4 mi. west of Iowa County Hwy "I", 2 ½ mi. north of the intersection of "I" and Hwy 18 in Montfort WI.

July 7 (Saturday) **TPE's Bush Clover Prairie & nearby USFWS easement** Grant Co. WI
 Site highlights include 2 reintroduced populations of Mead's Milkweed, Prairie Bushclover. Hopefully, Pale Purple Coneflowers will be blooming.
Time: 10:00 am **RSVP:** Gary Eldred: (608)375-5271
Directions: Meet at the Cenex gas station north of Lancaster, WI on Hwy 61.

July 8 (Sunday) **Scuppernong Valley Orchid Survey** Waukesha Co., WI
 Come help survey for the presence of the white fringed prairie orchid across a 1,000 acres of lowland prairie habitat found in the Scuppernong Valley. This WI DNR owned land has the potential of becoming one of the largest and richest prairie areas in the state. The vegetation across this level landscape is a mosaic of high-quality remnant prairie, long-abandoned old-fields invaded by prairie species, and everything in between. Three state natural areas are currently designated within the area. Major clearing of trees and brush in recent years has reclaimed large areas of prairie landscape. Be prepared for much walking and wet ground.
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **Trip Leaders:** Ted Cochrane & Scott Weber (608-356-0179).
Directions: Meet at the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area parking lot on County N. From Eagle (in SW Waukesha Co.) take US 59 west for 1 mile to County N. Turn right (north) on to N and go for about 1.5 miles. Look for a Scuppernong Prairie sign on the right. The gravel parking lot is on the left. Those wishing to car pool from Madison, please call the trip leader and meet at 8:30 AM at the Broadway Park and Ride parking lot on the SE side of Madison.

July 8 (Sunday evening) **The Crownvetch Wars: Planted Prairie Display & Oakwoods Walk** Green Co, WI
 After extensive site preparation this 18 acre crownvetch infested (30 years of seed bank) former corn and hay upland was machine planted to four seed mixes in 2000. Seed blends were designed for soil type, and to withstand spraying for crownvetch after seeding in the most severely blighted areas. Results have been gratifying, and careful management, including annual spring burning and dogged weed control, has paid off with an especially showy display of many colorful forbs quite thickly planted, featuring orange butterfly weed, pale purple coneflower, smooth penstemon, purple prairie clover, and zillions of silphiums! We will also walk through an adjacent 10 acre oak woodland being cleared of brush and invasives for several years now, and overseeded with high hopes. Along the way we can pay our respects to unseeded, but now self seeding, Yellow Giant Hyssop, Agastache nepetoides (Threatened) and a single, unseeded, robust American gromwell, Lithospermum latifolium, (Special Concern). Light refreshments will be served. RSVP.
Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Trip Leaders: Chuck Bauer (608-251-4051, 608-233-3839, 608-523-4987) and Mike Anderson.

Directions: Meet at N-9075 York Center Road approx. 8 miles west of New Glarus. Take Hwy. 39 from New Glarus to York Center Road. (York Center Road is one mile beyond the radio tower at the intersection of Hwy. 39 and Hwy.J) Turn left (south) onto York Center Road and go one mile to the second farm on the right. Turn into the driveway and park on the left on mowed areas. Meet at the big red barn. (All paths are mowed and trails are easy.)

NEXT FIELD TRIP FLIER

The next Field Trip Flier will cover dates
 July 14 – October 14, 2007.

