

The Prairie Enthusiasts



TPE Field Trips

Summer and Fall
2008

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.

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

July 6 (Sunday evening) **Hike Through Grassland, Prairie, Oak Woodland and Savannah** Green Co., WI
Easily hike a variety of gently rolling landscape terrain, and varied plant communities, on 82 carefully managed acres. We will explore a frequently burned and relatively young (2000) 18 acre planted prairie which displays an especially showy mix of many colorful forbs quite thickly planted, featuring orange butterfly weed, pale purple coneflower, smooth penstemon, purple prairie clover, and zillions of silphiums!. Along the way we'll see at least three rare plants (American gromwell, *Lithospermum latifolium* - Special Concern, and giant yellow hyssop, *Agastache nepetoides* -Threatened, prairie-turnip, *Pediomelum esculentum* - Special Concern), an original prairie remnant (enhanced and expanded by seeding and burning, and this year showing a very good forb response, especially the bastard toadflax), a ten acre Oakwoods (kept free of invasives), and three modest, but highly picturesque, oak savannah upland communities. **RSVP.**
Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM
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.)

July 12 (Saturday morning) **Flowers, Butterflies and Birds of Schurch-Thomson Prairie** Iowa Co, WI
We will visit The Prairie Enthusiasts' Schurch-Thomson Prairie, and the adjacent privately owned Underwood Prairie. The latter is closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. These and adjacent properties form a complex of remnant prairie and CRP grasslands that are rich with grassland birds. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and we hope to see the rare Regal Fritillary and other butterflies. Last year we found five species of fritillaries. Be prepared for a long hike and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). We will have a few extra binoculars. This is a joint trip with The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison Audubon Society, and Southern Wis. Butterfly Assoc.
Time: 9:00 AM to Noon
Trip leaders: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065) and Ann Thering
Directions: From Hwy 151 at Blue Mounds take F south (note: F makes a right angle turn). After 4.5 miles turn right onto Reilly Road. Go to the end and park by the barn.

July 12 (Saturday afternoon) **Pleasant Valley Conservancy** Dane Co, WI
Come see this 140-acre new State Natural Area in western Dane County. This is a preserve of The Prairie Enthusiasts managed by the Savanna Oak Foundation and the Empire-Sauk Chapter of TPE. It has extensive prairies, savannas, and wetlands. Flower displays should be excellent.
Time: 2:00-3:45 PM
Trip leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050)
Directions: The Conservancy is 5.5 miles southwest of the Village of Black Earth. Head south from the center of Black Earth on County Highway F/Wisconsin 78. Turn right at County F/County KP/Madison Street. Go about 1.1 miles on County F/KP and turn left on F. Go 3.7 miles to Pleasant Valley Road, which enters from the left. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Road. The preserve will be on both sides of Pleasant Valley Road. To reach the trail entrance, continue past the buildings and the steep hillside until you reach an open area and walking trail entrance on your left (about ¾ mile east on Pleasant Valley Road from the junction with County F). Cars should be parked off the road facing the entrance.

July 12 (Saturday afternoon) **Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie** Dane Co., WI
This premiere, high quality prairie remnant is a State Natural Area. It has recently been transferred from The Nature Conservancy to The Prairie Enthusiasts for safe keeping and management. The butterfly milkweed, and other mid-summer plants, should be in bloom. There will be opportunity to discuss the preserve's history and management with site stewards Tom and Kathie Brock. This is a must see site.
Time: 4:00 to 5:30 PM
Trip leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050)
Directions: From the intersection of US 14 and Hwy 78 in Black Earth, go south on Hwy 78 through the village. Near the south end of the village turn right (west) on County KP and F. Proceed about 1/2 mile west, then 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 roadside.

July 12 (Saturday afternoon) **Goplin Seed Production Nursery** Dane Co., WI
Come see how dozens of prairie plants have been established and are being maintained for concentrated seed collection, including species hard to collect in mass, such as phlox, violet, blue-eyed grass, and many more.
Time: 4:00 to 5:00 PM
Trip leader: Erik Goplin (608-437-4879)
Directions: From the intersection of US 18/151 and County F, on the South edge of Blue Mounds, take F south for 1.3 miles to 2531 County F. Turn (right) into the farmstead. (Note: At approximately 1 mile from 18/151, F turns to the right, and County Z goes straight. Stay on F).

July 12 (Saturday afternoon) **Pleasure Valley Conservancy** Dane Co., WI
This 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 mesic prairie. Restoration activities have been carried out for 15 years. Most of the conservancy is protected with a conservation easement held by TPE and Dane County. 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*). Trip includes walking 2 to 4 miles, some on rugged terrain. If it is hot, bring swim suits to take a dip in the spring feed pond
Time: 3:00 to 6:00 PM
Trip leaders: Ken Wade and 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.).

July 13 (Sunday morning) **Schurch-Thomson & Underwood Prairies** Iowa Co, WI
Come hike into a secluded valley that is part of The Prairie Enthusiasts 500-acre Mounds View Grassland Preserve. You'll be exploring excellent grassland bird habitat, high quality remnant dry-mesic prairie, the progress being made in recovering degraded and overgrown prairie sod, efforts at interseeding prairie into brome sod, and a seed production orchard. The Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a TPE preserve and the adjacent Underwood Prairie is a private site owned by the Underwood families. TPE has a management agreement with them to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres. The State listed regal fritillary and other butterflies will be in flight. Bring binoculars. After the hike stay for TPE's pot-luck picnic and annual meeting of the membership
Time: 9:30 to 11:30 AM
Trip Leader: Jan Ketelle (608-987-3116)
Directions: From Hwy 18/151 at Blue Mounds, take F south (note: F makes a right angle turn one mile south from 18/151). After 4.5 miles, turn right onto Reilly Road (a dead end road). Go to the end and park by the barn.

July 13 (Sunday morning) **TNC's Thomson Memorial Prairie** Dane/Iowa Co., WI
Come explore the dry prairie remnants of this 350-acre TNC preserve within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. The preserve is a blend of high quality remnants, recovering degraded remnants, and prairie plantings. This site is also home to the State listed regal fritillary butterfly and many species of grassland birds. Bring binoculars.
Time: 9:30 to 11:30 AM
Trip leader: Steve Richter (608-577-3076) or (608-316-6429)
Directions: 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).

July 13 (Sunday) **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
This is the fifth of nine scheduled hikes in 2006 to track the seasonal changes on remnant prairies along the bike trail. Local naturalist Bob Lee will lead the search for such as forbs as Turk's-cap Lily, Leadplant, Bergamot, Gray-headed Coneflower, and Missouri Goldenrod. 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 AM
Trip Leader: Bob Lee (608-486-2154)
Directions: Meet in Rockland, WI (near I-90 in eastern La Crosse Cty) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).

July 19 (July 20 Rain Date) **Prairie Day at Hugh Iltis Prairie and Savanna** Marquette County
Friends and members will join here for a day-long program of prairie plant identification (led by Mike Engel, US Fish & Wildlife Service), butterfly and dragonfly identification (led by Dory Owen), birding, invasives identification and management techniques (led by Shelley and David Hamel) and Junegrass seed collection (to take to your own restoration project).
Event will be followed by the regular quarterly meeting of the chapter, to be held in the sod-roofed pole barn (estimated duration is 45 minutes). Bring a sack lunch and beverage cup, binoculars, field guides, scissors and bag if you're collecting Junegrass. Ticks and chiggers can be a problem. This privately-owned but cooperatively managed (with generous assistance from US Fish & Wildlife Partners for Wildlife program and DNR LIP funding) is an 80-acre restoration prairie/savanna located at David and Shelley Hamel's, N8973 4th Avenue, Westfield WI (between Westfield and Coloma in Marquette County.)
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
For information or to RSVP contact: [Shelley Hamel](mailto:Shelley.Hamel@usfws.gov) (608-296-2866)

- July 24** (Thursday) **Playing with Prairie for Wildlife and Aesthetics** St. Croix County
 Our prairie is small, but includes an assortment of soil conditions and multiplicity of species. We are utilizing a variety of management options to maintain and diversify the habitat value and aesthetics of our prairie.
Time: 6:00 PM
Contact: Troy Meacham (715-265-4887) stmeacham@cltcomm.net
Level of walking difficulty: Easy - Trails available
Directions: From Baldwin take HWY 63 North to CO RD G, Turn right or East on G and continue 3 miles to 240th Street (old Emerald town hall on left), Turn left onto 240th Street heading North. Our place is the first on the right. 1511 240th Street, Emerald, WI
- July 26** (Saturday) **Scuppernong Valley Prairies and Butterflies** Waukesha Co., WI
 Come and explore over 1,000 acres of lowland prairie habitat in various stages of recovery. 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 reverting back to prairie, and everything in between. Three state natural areas are currently designated within the area. The DNR's efforts in recent years of extensive clearing of trees and brush and reintroducing fire are resulting in the reclamation of large areas of prairie. Many prairie flowers and a variety of butterflies abound. Some late season grassland birds may also still be active in the area as well. This is a joint trip of The Prairie Enthusiasts, Madison Audubon, and the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association. Be prepared for much walking and some wet ground. Bring food and water, sun screen, hat, insect repellent, and binoculars (the closer they focus the better -- we will have a couple extra pair).
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Trip Leaders: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065) and Karl & Dorothy Legler.
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, should meet (8:30 AM) at the Dutch Mill Park and Ride on Broadway, east of Stoughton Rd, on Madison's SE side.
- July 27** (Sunday afternoon) **Prairies at their Peak** Dane Co, WI
 Come see Pleasant Valley Conservancy; a new 140-acre State Natural Area in western Dane County. This is a preserve of The Prairie Enthusiasts that is managed by the Savanna Oak Foundation and the Empire-Sauk Chapter of TPE. It has extensive prairies, savannas, and wetlands. Flower displays should be excellent. Kathie and Tom Brock are the site's stewards and preserve benefactors. This is a joint trip with the Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Trip leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050)
Directions: The Conservancy is 5.5 miles southwest of the Village of Black Earth. Head south from the center of Black Earth on County Highway F/Wisconsin 78. Turn right at County F/County KP/Madison Street. Go about 1.1 miles on County F/KP and turn left on F. Go 3.7 miles to Pleasant Valley Road, which enters from the left. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Road. The preserve will be on both sides of Pleasant Valley Road. To reach the trail entrance, continue past the buildings and the steep hillside until you reach an open area and walking trail entrance on your left (about ¾ mile east on Pleasant Valley Road from the junction with County F). Cars should be parked off the road facing the entrance.
- July 29** (Tuesday evening) **Sugar River Oak Savanna** Dane Co., WI
 Come see a great diversity of prairie and oak savanna wildflowers and grasses. This 9-acre oak savanna is a TPE preserve managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. Although it still shows some signs of past use as a former pasture, 32 years of annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery of native prairie and savanna vegetation. There are now nearly 400 native plant species present. Prairie blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*), rattlesnake master, prairie dock, and many more species should be in full bloom.
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)
Directions: From the intersection of CTH 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 a joint driveway. Proceed to the brick house (2845 Timber Lane). Park in mowed lawn (please do not block the neighbors driveway).

August 3 (Sunday) **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
Spotted Cow-bane, Flowering Spurge, Tall Sunflower, and Naked Sunflower are likely to be in bloom along the trail at this time. 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 Cty) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).

August 9 (Saturday) **Butterflies of the Avoca/Blue River Area** Iowa/Grant Co., WI
This trip will highlight several areas in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, including Avoca Prairie and Savanna State Natural Area in Iowa Co. and the Muscoda and Blue River units in Grant Co. We expect to see late butterflies and several southern immigrants. A hat and long pants are recommended. Bring binoculars (the closer they focus the better). A few extra binoculars are available. This is a Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and Madison Audubon Society sponsored trip.
Time: 10:30 AM to about 5 PM
Trip leader: Mike Reese (920-787-2341)
Directions: Allow 1 1/4 hour travel time from Madison. Take Hwy 14 east to Lone Rock, south on Hwy 130 then turn right on Hwy 133. Go west about 5.5 miles, turn right on Hay Rd, and drive north to the parking lot just before the creek.

August 10 (Sunday) **Smith/Egre Drumlin Prairies** Dane County, WI
Come see two, good quality, dry drumlin prairies nestled within 80 acres of grassland cover set in an open prairie landscape. This site has spectacular displays dwarf (cylindrical) blazingstar, which should be in bloom. Drumlin hills are interesting features formed by the passing of the last glacier. They are often composed of gravel and sand left behind the passing glacier. This is an opportunity to visit a private site not open to the public. The Empire-Sauk Chapter of TPE is currently working with the landowners on long-term management.
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Trip leader: Peter Thomford (262-332-0074)
Directions: From the intersection of US Hwy 12 and Hwy 73 (2.5 miles west of Cambridge, WI), take 73 south 1.5 miles to County PQ. Turn left (east) onto PQ. Proceed 1.0 miles to Clearview Road. Take Clearview (right turn) south 0.6 miles/ park along the road, but off the shoulder. We will be hiking in a 1/2 mile from the parking area.

August 14 (Thursday) **Goode Prairie Farm** Pierce County Hudson, WI
You are invited to join Mike Miller and Susan Goode for a visit to Goode Prairie Farm. Their farm is located 8 miles south of Hudson, WI and includes a high quality remnant goat prairie with an outstanding overlook view of the Kinnickinnic River. Mike and Susan have been working for several years to restore areas of native prairie, adjacent oak savanna, and woods. In the past two years, three separate cost-sharing grants with the Wis. DNR and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service have accelerated the pace of their restoration work and resulted in a 15-acre restoration area. Mike and Susan also operate Pure Prairie Seed, a local genotype prairie seed nursery. They currently have 55 acres of forb and grass seed production with approximately 25 different forbs and 5 grasses. The hike will include a walk through the native areas, observation and discussion of the restoration project, and a walk through the nursery garden plots.
Time: 6:00 PM
Difficulty: A level walk of about 1 mile.
Directions: From the north, take I-94 to Hudson, WI and take the Carmichael Road/County Road F exit. Go south about 8 miles. Watch for a sign for Kinnickinnic River State Park. The farm is on the right (east) side of the road, fire code, #N8160. From the south, take Hwy. 29 north out of Prescott about 2 miles to County Road F. Take a left and go north about 6 miles (you will pass through the river valley just before reaching the farm).

August 23 (Saturday) **Hanley Savanna** Jo Daviess County
Hanley Savanna: 150 Acre Hanley Savanna prairie is in the process of being restored. After nearly five years, the last piece was planted last fall. Thousands of prairie plugs have been planted over the last two seasons in a field nursery. Also, a lovely demonstration garden designed, planted and maintained by the Conservation Guardian of Northwest Illinois. Multiple hiking trails Guided tour
Time: 10:00 AM
Trip Leaders: Jim Rachuy, Ed Strenski and Beth Pomaro
Directions: Take Highway U.S. 20 west to the intersection of US 20 & Highway 84 go south on 84 to Hanover Illinois. Turn left on to Fulton St. at the apple River. Take Fulton to Hanover Hill Road to The T-intersection of Hanover Hill Rd and Whitton Rd. HS is on the South east corner about a 1/4 mile south of the intersection

August 23 (Saturday) **Casper** Jo Daviess County
Casper: We will travel from HS to Casper. Late comers may meet us there at noon. 85 acres of Mississippi River bluff top views with overlooks that highlight the river. This site hosts not only spectacular views but also over 30 Native American Indian mounds including a thunderbird effigy mound. This site is a great place to hike, bird watch and enjoy the beauty of Jo Daviess County.
Time: 12:00 PM
Trip Leaders: Christie Trifone from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
Directions: Take Highway 20 to Blackjack Road South out of Galena IL. Take Blackjack Road to North Pilot Knob. Follow until you get to signage for Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve. Take the lane until you hit the parking lot.

August 24 (Sunday afternoon) **Schluckebier Sand Prairie/Gasser Sand Barrens** Sauk Co, WI
Take a walk through history on this 23-acre preserve, one of the very last remnants of the great Sauk Prairie, which in pre-settlement times covered more than 20,000 acres near the Wisconsin River. Purchased in the early 1970s by The Nature Conservancy and now managed by TPE's Empire-Sauk Chapter, this sandy, dry to dry-mesic prairie protects endangered and threatened prairie plants and animals, most notably prairie bush clover and red-tailed leafhopper. Rough blazing-star should be in bloom. After visiting the South Unit (the preserve is split into two parcels), we will continue down the road to the 3-acre Gasser Sand Barrens, which has blowouts with xerophytic evergreen shrubs and characteristic cryptogamic plants.
Time: 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Trip Leader: Ted Cochrane (608-256-6288)
Directions: From U.S. Hwy. 12 west of Sauk City, turn west onto Co. Hwy. PF and go 2 miles to Schluckebier. Take the dirt lane on the south side of the road to the small parking lot or park on the edge of the field on the north side across PF from dirt lane or along PF itself (pull well off the road).

August 24 (Sunday) **La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie** La Crosse County, WI
Grasses such as Switchgrass, Big Bluestem, Cord Grass, and Muhly Grass should dominate these railroad remnants at this time. Prairie Sunflower and Joe Pyeweed should also be in bloom. 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 Cty) at the railroad crossing on Commercial St. (CTH J).

August 27 (Wednesday evening) **Sugar River Oak Savanna** Dane Co., WI
This diverse 9-acre oak savanna is a TPE preserve managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. Although it still shows some signs of past use as a pasture, 32 years of annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery of native prairie and savanna vegetation. There are now nearly 400 native plant species present. A wide variety of late summer wildflowers and grasses should be in bloom, including rough blazingstar.
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065)
Directions: From the intersection of CTH 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 a joint driveway. Proceed to the brick house (2845 Timber Lane). Park in mowed lawn and drive (please do not block neighbor's driveway).

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

NEXT FIELD TRIP FLIER

The next Field Trip Flier will cover dates April 11 – July 19, 2009. Deadline for collecting trip information will be March 8th.

If you have a field trip you would like to do, please submit your field trip ideas to your chapter's field trip coordinator. Thank you.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS:

This Field Trip flier as well as our Prairie Promoter are posted on our website: www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

If you would prefer to receive an email notification when this flyer is online, instead of receiving the hardcopy in the mail, please send your email address to TPE@tds.net