

The Prairie Enthusiasts



TPE Field Trips

Spring and Early Summer
2011

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.

April 3 (Sunday)

Hoesly Prairie

Green County, WI

Our first hike of the season is to Hoesly Prairie to see pasque flowers. Thousands will bloom every year, but snow, frosts, and winds can affect the display. This sizeable, privately-owned and well-managed grassland in Hustad Valley is home to the rare woolly milkweed, and meadowlarks also nest here.

Time: 1:00 pm

Trip Leaders: Nick Faessler (608-214-3852), Fred Faessler, Gary Felder

Directions: We'll meet south of the intersection of Hwy 39 and County J in Town of York, between New Glarus and Blanchardville, then carpool north a half-mile to the entrance.

April 3 (Sunday)

Barns Bluff Goat Prairie Hike

Red Wing, MN

Barns Bluff is a large north/south oriented hill lying between downtown Red Wing and the Mississippi River. It is maintained by the city as a natural park and hiking area. The views of both the town of Red Wing and the Mississippi River are spectacular! The west-facing portion of the bluff is a large goat prairie with a good selection of dry prairie species. In the spring it is known to have one of the most significant Pasqueflower blooms in southern Minnesota. The site is burned almost every year in the fall by local high school students albeit as a night-before-Halloween prank rather than for management purposes! The burns have, however had the beneficial effect of keeping the prairie mostly free of brushy invasives.

Time: 1:00 pm

Contact: Mike Miller (715-425-0397)

Directions: If entering Red Wing from the west on Hwy. 61, take the highway (aka Main St.) through downtown and turn right on Hwy 58 (Plum St.). Go three blocks to 5th St. and then go left. Fifth St. will (in 6-7 blocks) go under Hwy. 61. Parking is in a block or so along the roadside. Don't go as far as the railroad tracks. If coming from Wisconsin on Hwy. 63, there is a right hand curve off of the bridge and in a block you will intersect Hwy. 58 at a 4-way stop. Turn left on Hwy 58 and then follow above directions the rest of the way. Please understand that cold rainy or snowy weather will result in cancellation of the outing. Please check with Mike if the weather is questionable.

Level of walking difficulty: Difficult. It is a half-mile uphill walk, the first half climbing mostly on stairs and the second half on a dirt path.

- May 7 (Saturday)** **Ten Eyck's Woods** Green County, WI
 This is our first field trip to a sandy oak forest with lots of spring wildflowers: spring beauty, dutchman's breeches, Jacob's ladder, anemone, hepatica, and sedges. Over thirty acres were burned last fall, which should prompt a beautiful floral display this spring.
Time: 11:00 am **Trip Leader:** Fred Faessler (608-214-3203)
Directions: Meet in parking lot of Ten Eyck Orchard, W962 Hwy 11/81, just west of Sugar River a few miles south of Brodhead.
- May 8 (Sunday)** **Indian Heights Park** Olmsted Cty, MN
 Mother's Day tour. This 37 acre park in the City of Rochester has both Native American and pioneer significance. We'll see an 80-year young Dry Prairie developing in a defunct quarry; walk through remnant oak openings, savanna, and woodlands. Spring ephemerals (e.g., Trout Lilies, etc) should be in bloom. There are steep hills, and bluff drop offs. This park is being promoted for its contemplative atmosphere and need for prairie restoration. Meet at 1800 Terracewood Dr. NW.
Time: 3:30 – 4:30pm **Tour leader:** Dawn Littleton (507-285-1517)
Directions: - Indian Heights Park, 1800 Terracewood NW, Rochester, MN
 Take Hwy 52 to Rochester. Take Exit 56C ("Elton Hills Drive"). Drive EAST 1.5 miles on Elton Hills Drive. Turn Right (SOUTH) on Viking Drive about one-fifth of a mile. At the T, turn Right (WEST) onto 19th St. NW. Take the first LEFT onto TerraceWood. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Terracewood. For map and more information see "Visiting the Park" <http://foih.org/park.html>.
- May 14 (Saturday afternoon)** **Exploring Mounds View Grassland Preserve** Iowa Co., WI
 Join us for an afternoon of hiking across TPE's 570-acre Mounds View Grassland Preserve. A work in progress, this preserve is on its way to returning to what it was 170 years ago, a rolling landscape of prairies, streams, and wetlands. You will learn about the plans for the future and what has already been accomplished. We will see remnants of original dry and dry-mesic prairie, complete with the small-statured flowers typical of spring in the prairies, cold water streams and spring seeps, and smooth brome grasslands with birds, such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow's sparrows, all of which should be back and setting up territories. Be prepared for a long hike; bring hat, sunscreen, water, and binoculars.
Time: 1:00 to 5:00 pm **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
Directions: 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.)
- May 14 (Saturday)** **Sulzer Prairie** Green County, WI
 Join us for a leisurely walk through a tallgrass prairie that has all but disappeared from the southern Wisconsin landscape. Sulzer Prairie is a small, family-owned remnant with a stunning display of spring wildflowers including shooting stars, yellow star grass, blue-eyed grass, prairie smoke, wild indigo, puccoons and other surprises.
Time: 2:00 pm **Trip leaders:** Tom Mitchell (608-214-8690) and Mike Davis
Directions: Meet at the Sulzer farm, located at W4790 Sulzer Road north of Monroe. Sulzer Road is east of Hwy 69 and north of County FF, between Gutzmer and Feldt Roads.
- May 14 (Saturday)** **Train Ride in Tiffany Wildlife Area** Buffalo County, WI
 Chippewa Savannas Chapter is hosting an open-air train ride deep into remote areas of the Tiffany Bottoms 13,000 acres of wetlands, meadows, prairies & savannas. \$25 TPE members/\$30 non-members. Details: Prairie Promoter & TPE website.
Time: 6:45am – 1:00pm **Contact:** Agnes Welsch @ awelsch@dishup.us or 715-265-4348
- May 15 (Sunday afternoon)** **Erbe Grassland & Goplin Prairie** Dane Co., WI
 Erbe Grassland is a 63-acre site acquired by TPE in 2007. The Goplin property is adjacent to the preserve and is being managed by TPE. Both sites are being restored and contain a mix of remnant prairie, old prairie pasture, and prairie plantings. Come see our restoration efforts as well as early season forbs such as prairie violets, wood betony, and prairie phlox. Grassland birds such as upland sandpipers, eastern meadowlarks, Henslow's sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, and bobolinks are also present at these sites. Moderate hike of 2-3 miles.
Time: 12 Noon - 2:00 pm **Trip Leader:** Erik Goplin (608-437-4879 or egoplin@mhtc.net)
Directions: US 181-151 west from Madison 2 miles west of Mt. Horeb. Left on Erbe Road about 1 mile. Park at kiosk on right side of the road (across from quarry).

- May 15 (Sunday)** **Muralt Bluff Prairie** Green County, WI
 Be prepared for a steep climb, but the display of early prairie gems like prairie smoke, shooting stars, kitten tails, wood betony, pussy toes, puccoons and violets is stunning. All of Muralt Bluff (except refugia for regal fritillaries) was burned last fall, so we should see a dazzling display of flowers without the duff. If time permits we may drive to nearby Oliver and Vale Prairies, where we can hike the hillsides to see more unusual wildflowers.
Time: 1:00 to 3:30 pm **Trip leader:** Tom Mitchell (608-214-8690)
Directions: Parking lot for Muralt Bluff is on south side of County F, two miles northwest of the intersection of F and Hwy 59, three miles west of Albany.
- May 17 (Tuesday evening)** **Koltes Prairie & Westport Drumlin SNA** Dane Co., WI
 Recently, 100 acres, including the Koltes Prairies, were protected by the Natural Heritage Land Trust working with WI DNR, Dane County, and TPE. This parcel will eventually be added to the Westport Drumlin State Natural Area. We will first visit the smaller Koltes prairie remnants, which have been under management agreement with the Empire-Sauk Chapter of TPE since 1992, and then proceed to Westport Drumlin. Both sites have diverse, high quality prairie. The bird's-foot violets and other spring wildflowers should be in full bloom. These prairies range from dry to mesic. The heart of the preserve is a beautiful drumlin ridge, formed by the passing over of the last glacier. It has NW and SE facing slopes and sand and gravel substrates.
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
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 0.6 miles. Koltes Prairie is on the left (north) side.
- May 21 (Saturday)** **After Burn Tour** Afton, MN
 With the help of other TPE members, our oak savanna remnant and prairie restorations were burned last fall. The savanna features a nice population of kittentails, which should be in bloom. The remnant also features sedges, little bluestem, prairie violet, New Jersey tea, and spiderwort among others. Oak woods surround the savanna - some of the spring wild flowers should still be in bloom. About 7 acres have been restored to tall grass prairie -- the shooting stars might be blooming and the Baptisia will at least be in bud. We will tour all the areas, looking for fire effects, what's blooming, what will be blooming and ? The bluebirds should also be nesting.
Time: 1:00 pm
Contact: Bill and Doreen home phone 651-436-5272 cell 612-418-5061 email bramsden@infionline.net
Location: Bill and Doreen Ramsden's place, Washington Co. MN 14001 Valley Creek Trail S.
Level of difficulty: easy to moderate. Most of the walking will be on level to slightly sloping ground, though access to the oak savanna requires a short climb (10 feet up over 20 foot distance).
- May 22 (Sunday afternoon)** **Shooting Star Spectacular** Iowa Co., WI
 Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies. Shooting stars should be in full bloom in spectacular displays of 10s of thousands, along with other late-spring prairie flowers such as the striking cream wild indigo, puccoons, and alumroot. We will also see prairie plantings and inter-seedings of various ages. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre unit of TPE's 570-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve and it is adjacent to the privately owned Underwood Prairie (Hanley Family Trust), for which TPE has a management agreement to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat filled with bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow's sparrows. So bring binoculars, a hat, and sunscreen, and be prepared for a long hike.
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm **Trip Leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
Directions: 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.)
- May 26 (Thursday evening)** **Sugar River Oak Savanna** Dane Co., WI
 This diverse 9-acre oak savanna is a preserve of The Prairie Enthusiasts, managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. Although it still shows some signs of past use as a pasture, it is recovering nicely with nearly 400 native plant species now present. It has been managed with frequent fire since 1976. A wide array of late-spring wildflowers will be in bloom, including wood betony, shooting star, cream Baptisia, wild lupine, and golden Alexander.
Time: 6:00 to 7:30 pm **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
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 neighbor's driveway).

June 4 (Saturday) **Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific & Natural Area Prairie Hike** Cottage Grove, MN
Grey Cloud Dunes encompasses two sandy terraces along the Mississippi River. The first, 40 to 60 feet above the river, is remarkable for its crescents and blowouts sculpted by southwesterly winds. The second, 110 feet above the river, has a dramatic cut-face. These river terraces mark the height of the river at various periods following the melting and retreat of the glaciers. Dunes on both terraces rise in waves, cresting 10 to 20 feet above the swales. Distinctive species adapted to the dry, sandy environment include little bluestem, penstemon, prairie dropseed, sand reed grass, gramma grass, silky prairie clover, among others. Rare sea-beach needlegrass occurs in several of the blowouts. We will be visiting the site in early June so the puccoon and prairie smoke should be blooming in abundance.
Time: 10:00 am **Contact:** Mike Miller (715-425-0397)
Level of walking difficulty: Moderate. Approx. one mile of walking in sandy soils with some gradual changes in elevation.
Directions: Located in Cottage Grove, MN. From US Hwy 61 exit south (right) onto Jamaica Ave., then west on 100th St., then south on Hadley Ave. Park at the intersection with 103rd St in the small parking lot at the head of the trail.

June 4 (Saturday morning) **Bird Walk and more at Mounds View** Iowa Co, WI
Come for an early morning hike to learn about birds, as well as any butterflies or dragonflies that present themselves. This site is excellent for a variety of grassland birds such as upland sandpipers, eastern meadowlarks, Henslow's sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, and bobolinks. But there is also habitat for savanna/woodland birds such as bluebirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks, orchard and northern orioles, flickers, and red-headed woodpeckers. Birds are most active with territory calls and displays during early morning hours, so it is worth getting up. Bring binoculars, hat, and boots for dew covered grass.
Time: 8:00 – 10:30 am **Trip Leader:** Eric Preston (608-257-1513 or ericw.preston@gmail.com)
Directions: 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.)

June 11 (Saturday morning) **Sugar River Oak Savanna** Dane Co., WI
Come see a display of spiderwort flowers in full glory before they close up for the day. This diverse 9-acre oak savanna is a preserve of The Prairie Enthusiasts, managed by the Empire-Sauk. Although it still shows some signs of past use as a pasture, 34 years of annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery of native prairie and savanna vegetation. There are now nearly 400 native plant species present. Besides spiderwort, there will be pale spiked lobelia, rock rose, wood lily, white Baptisia, and many other flowers in bloom.
Time: 9:00 to 10:30 am **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
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 neighbor's driveway).

June 13 (Monday evening) **Rice Lake Flats: How does this experiment grow...?** Somerset Township, MN
Post-glacial river terrace of the St. Croix River and former Native American campsite. Come see a big flat area with lots of native plants growing on it. Some pretty plants, some rather blah. Plants arranged in a very careful way. Five restored communities each planted in duplicate. All seeds counted, before scattered spring and fall Seventy species in all. Testing ratios, rates and recipes. Bring your thinking cap.
Time: 6:30 pm **Contact:** Shawn Schottler (651-433-5953 x18)
Directions: Intersection of Rice Lake Road and 221st Ave, Somerset Township, Section 17. From Somerset go north on WI-35 for 3.9 miles, turn left on 220th Ave. for 1 mile, continue straight on CO. Rd I for 1 mile, turn right on 50th St. for .6 miles, take the second left on Rice Lake Road 1.8 miles
Level of difficulty: Very difficult for people unwilling to consider and share new ideas, otherwise very easy.

June 16 (Thursday evening) **Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie State Natural Area** Dane Co., WI
Join us for our annual field trip to this high quality upland prairie remnant. In 2007, this preserve was transferred from The Nature Conservancy to The Prairie Enthusiasts. Mid June is the time of year when the spectacular display of wood lilies at this site should be at its peak. This is a joint trip with Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm **Trip Leaders:** Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050. kmbrock@charter.net)
Directions: From the west side of Madison/Middleton/Beltline Highway, take US Highway 14 west to the Village of Black Earth. At the traffic light (Shoe Box corner) turn left on County F. At the south end of the village turn right (west) on County F. In about a mile turn left on County F and immediately right on Fesenfeld Road. The preserve will be on your left. Continue about 1000 feet on Fesenfeld Road to the preserve entrance. Park on the right side of the road.

- June 18 (Saturday)** **Butterflies & Wildflowers at Pleasant Valley Conservancy** Dane Co., WI
Pleasant Valley Conservancy is a beautiful state natural area situated in the Driftless Area, with steep goat prairies, oak savanna, and a large high quality marsh. It is a preserve of the Savanna Oak Foundation and The Prairie Enthusiasts. The various habitats are home to numerous butterflies. This time of year we hope to see Baltimore Checkerspot and perhaps some rare wetland skippers. Other possible butterfly species include Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Red-Spotted Purple, American Lady, fritillaries, blues, and sulphurs. All of these butterflies will have many wonderful native plants to nectar on this time of year. We will be hiking two to three miles, including a very steep hillside. Long pants, a hat, water, and sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. Optional: bring along a bag lunch for after the field trip; beverages and dessert will be provided. Bring binoculars -- the closer they focus, the better (we have a few extra binoculars). This is a joint trip with SWBA, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and the Madison Audubon Society
Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm **Trip Leaders:** Ann Thering and Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050)
Directions: Heading south into downtown Black Earth follow County Hwy F as it turns right (west). After a mile or so F turns left (south). Continue on F for another 3 3/4 miles turning left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive 3/4 mile and stop at the walking trail on the left. Park off the road facing the entrance.
- June 21 (Tuesday evening)** **Schluckebier Sand Prairie** Sauk Co., WI
We will visit this 23-acre State Natural Area that was transferred from The Nature Conservancy to The Prairie Enthusiasts in 2009. It has been managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter of TPE since 2004. The preserve contains remnants of original sandy prairie, along with sandy old fields that are slowly reverting back to prairie after 50 or more years of abandonment. We can expect to see spiderwort, prairie smoke, hairy hawkweed, sand puccoon, and other plants typical of sand prairie.
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM **Trip Leader:** Scott Sauer (608-273-0904 or scottbsauer@yahoo.com)
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.
- June 29 (Wednesday evening)** **Birds & Flowers of Underwood & Schurch-Thomson Prairies** Iowa Co., WI
Come see Schurch-Thomson Prairie, which is a part of TPE's 570-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve, and the adjacent Underwood Prairie which is privately owned by the Hanley Family Trust. These are dry and dry-mesic prairies in a 400-acre sea of CRP grassland rich with grassland birds such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow's sparrows. Evening is the ideal time to hear the cryptic call of the state listed (Threatened) Henslow sparrow. Early summer prairie flowers such as pale-purple coneflower, white wild indigo, white prairie clover, Coreopsis, leadplant, and other flowers will be in bloom. Be prepared for a long hike. Bring binoculars.
Time: 6:00 to 8:30 pm **Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)
Directions: 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.)
- July 4 (Monday)** **Butterflies & Dragonflies at Swamp Lovers Preserve** Dane Co., WI
This preserve is on private land. It consists of remnant wetlands, remnant bluff prairie, restored tall grass prairie, and dry hilly oak-hickory woodland. We will observe and learn about various butterflies and dragonflies as we explore the preserve. Bring binoculars (close-focusing ones work best) -- or just get close! At the top of the ridge we will picnic at a shelter. Bring your own food and drink. This is a joint trip of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and the Madison Audubon Society.
Time: 9:30am – 1:00pm
Trip Leader: Tod Highsmith and Karl & Dorothy Legler (608-643-4926 or cell 608-228-0743)
Directions: Travel west from Cross Plains on Hwy 14. Just outside town take County KP to the right (north) and go about 1/2 mile or so and turn left at the Swamp-Lovers sign.
- July 7 (Thursday)** **Reed Triple Gait Ranch** St. Croix County, WI
This is a 78-acre parcel with a 27-acre short prairie SAFE restoration, emphasizing ground-nesting bird habitat. The restoration planting was done in June 2009 by Troy Meacham featuring local geno-types. This walk will be an opportunity to observe the progress of an early restoration and practice species identification on young plants.
Time: 6:30 pm **Contact:** Buck Malick (715-386-7010)
Difficulty: Level is easy; the restoration is essentially level. Adjacent hills with remnant prairie species have 20% slope.
Directions: North of I-94. West of Twin Lakes. 1044 70th Avenue, Town of Warren (Section 29 S1/2 of SW1/4). Enter at paved driveway, park near buildings.

July 10 (Sunday morning)

Butterflies, Blooms, and Birds

Iowa Co. WI

Come visit TPE's 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, butterflies, and dragonflies. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and the rare Regal Fritillary and many other butterflies and day moths should be active. Ten species of dragon and damsel flies and 47 species of butterflies have been observed here in the past. We will also hear and see a variety of grassland birds. Be prepared for a long hike (long-pants, hat, and sunscreen) and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). For those who wish to bring food and stay for a picnic lunch in the shade by the kiosks, drinks and treats will be provided.

Time: 10:00am – 12:30pm

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

Directions: 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.)

**Our TPE Annual Picnic will be Sunday, July 17
Hosted by the Prairie Sands Chapter!!!!
Self-Guided Tours & Camping also Available Saturday, July 16!!!**

July 16 (Saturday)

Local Self-Guided Tours & Campfire

Marquette County, WI

There are 4 Self-guided field trip opportunities as well as an evening campfire at David and Shelly Hamel's!!!!

Self-Guided Tours:

- a visit to the Prairie Nursery ten minutes from Westfield. This local business has been serving the prairie public for many years. A demonstration garden and retail store are described here: <http://www.prairienursery.com/store/>
- ~~a visit to BisonRidge Ranch, 30 minutes from Westfield, is a popular place to take a tour (reservations required and TPE members receive \$1 discount on tickets when they mention their TPE affiliation):~~
~~<http://www.bisonridgeranch.com/> Canceled~~
- a hike at John Muir Memorial Park/State Natural Area, 30 minutes from Westfield. Plant communities include a rich fen, sedge meadow, open bog, northern wet forest dominated by tamarack, southern dry forest, oak opening, and wet-mesic prairie. A trail guide about plant communities in the park is available at: http://marquette.iceagetrail.org/shop/marquette.iceagetrailalliance.info/files/1277319628_marquette_muir_park_guide.pdf . Other information: <http://www.tn.buffalo.wi.gov/community/muirpark.asp>
- an afternoon at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, about 45 minutes from Westfield, offers all comers 44,000 acres of remarkable diversity and a look at resident Whooping cranes. Stop at the Refuge Office which is open until 4 PM on Saturday for orientation, or find maps and info at their site: <http://www.fws.gov/Remidwest/necedah/>

Campfire and/or Camping:

Saturday night campfire (weather permitting) and/or tent camping under the oaks at David and Shelley Hamel's, about 15 minutes from Westfield. Bring your own camp food and marshmallows to roast over the cobblestone campfire ring at the bog and spin tales about the (prescribed) fire that got away and other scary ghost stories. And if you want to come early Saturday (anytime after noon) to set up a tent, make arrangements with Hamels ahead of time: 608-296-2866 or sdhamel@maQs.net. Campfire will be burning good at 6:30PM and everyone is welcome.

- **Directions:** To Hamels via Pioneer Park in Westfield: To get to Pioneer Park, take exit 113 off I-39. Turn west at end of ramp (either coming from north or south); turn right at McDonalds (N. Pioneer Park Road) and continue past Pioneer Park on the right. Turn right (north) at next stop sign (County CH/County M). Go past Westfield High School and watch for the surprise left turn that County M makes. Turn left (west). Stay on County M until 4th Avenue (not 4th Drive which is the street before 4th Avenue). Turn right on 4th Avenue and go north. After you cross Deerborn Avenue, be on the lookout for fire # N8973 on the left. If you reach the 'tee' at 4th Road, you just passed us on the left. Log house, log shop behind evergreens. Park in driveway.
- All other lodging in Marquette County: <http://www.marquettenow.com/lodging.php>

July 17 (Sunday)

TPE Annual Picnic and Meeting of the Membership

Marquette County, WI

The Chuckwagon Pavilion in Pioneer Park, Westfield WI.

Below is a brief summary of the events. Further details are in the Prairie Promoter and on the website:

9:30 – 11:45am

A guided tour of the "Hugh Iltis Prairie and Savanna" restoration. This site hosts the federally-endangered Karner Blue butterfly. Work to increase the caterpillar's host plant, lupine, and multiple nectaring species has been ongoing since 1989. Survey monitoring indicates impressive success in these efforts.

12:00pm

Lunch

Prairie Sands chapter will provide a main dish for lunch and asks that participants bring side dishes to share and plates/cups/utensils for personal use.

1:00pm

TPE Meeting of the membership

2:15pm

Guided Tours

- **Tour Option 1: Keith Baker's Prairie Restoration**

Keith will talk about some of the successes and failures regarding a select harvest of white oak in 1989, a ten year stand of lupine with new areas in the making, oak wilt and his method of dealing with it, and a warm season grass hay and horse pasture. This is an 80-acre site with a good deal of walking (some parts accessible by car).

- **Tour Option 2: Prairie Hill Farm**

100 acres of restored and reconstructed prairie, oak-hickory savanna, sedge meadows, and emergent wetlands surrounding and containing a glacial drumlin. Over 80 species of endemic savanna plants survived a century of farming and new discoveries are made each year.

Directions: To get to Pioneer Park, take the Westfield exit 113 off I-39. Turn west at end of ramp (either coming from north or south); turn right at McDonalds (N. Pioneer Park Road) and continue until you see Pioneer Park on the right and the large, covered pavilion.

Contact for information: Ann Woldt, annralph@centurytel.net

NEXT FIELD TRIP FLIER

The next Field Trip Flier will cover dates July 11 – October 16, 2011.

Field trips are also posted on our website at: www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

We hope you can attend several field trips this spring and early summer. This is a great opportunity to see properties that are otherwise closed to the public, a chance to see the results of maintenance and to see rare plants, insects and birds. Also remember to share your love of prairies by bringing a friend!!!

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