

# Field Trip Guide

## August & September 2017

The Prairie Enthusiasts Field Trip Guide is a way to identify opportunities to get out on the prairie and enjoy a guided hike. Full details and directions are available on our website calendar or by calling the office at 608-387-1873.

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

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### **Aug. 1, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

*Sugar River Oak Savanna, Dane County, WI*

Tour this highly diverse 9-acre oak savanna of The Prairie Enthusiasts, managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. The 41 years of nearly annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery. There are now 400 native plant species present. Please join us for this wonderful tour.

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

### **Aug. 5, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

*Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairies, Dane County, WI*

Come see this 40-acre TPE preserve, which has two gravel and sand drumlin prairie remnants nestled among prairie restoration plantings now in their 4th growing season. This site has spectacular displays of flowers.

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

### **Aug. 5, Time + Location TBD (see the website or contact Joe)**

*Dragonflies of the Midwest, Menomonie, WI*

Ryan Crouser will take us on this adventure and help us get to know our local dragonflies. You will see a spectacular array of these winged species.

*Contact: Joe Maurer, 715-533-9934 or [prairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com](mailto:prairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com)*

### **Aug. 5, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

*Iris Drive Prairie Hike, Gays Mills, WI*

Join us as we walk our Southwest Chapter's newest prairie remnant purchase. We will hike the 2 remnants and talk over the history, prairie plant diversity, restoration methods and long-term goals for the adjoining oak woodlands. You are in for a treat; this site is really coming along!

*Trip Leader: Gary Eldred, 608-375-5271*

### **Aug. 6, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

*Bush Clover Remnant Hike, Grant County, WI*

After 25 years of restoration, this remnant is starting to reflect the past glory of the prairies that once were! The 3-acre site was the second purchased by the Southwest Chapter in 1988. We will discuss restoration efforts, victories, threats to the site and new brush eradication efforts that have worked very well.

*Trip Leader: Gary Eldred, 608-375-5271*



## Aug. 12, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Zephyr Valley Community Cooperative, Rushford, MN

The Minnesota Driftless Chapter is hosting an early morning prairie hike, followed by a potluck brunch and annual meeting. Zephyr Valley Community Cooperative is in the process of permanently conserving four steep goat prairies, oak savannas, and fire-dependent oak forests totaling 155 acres. Come for a tour and visit while meeting members from TPE's newest chapter.

Coordinator: Kevin O'Brien, 507-458-4241 or [wwkob@hotmail.com](mailto:wwkob@hotmail.com)

## Aug. 12, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Parrish Oak Savanna State Natural Area, Dane County, WI

Let's explore this diverse savanna and woodland flora with 240 native species. This TPE preserve consists of a rugged dolomite-capped ridge underlain by sandstone, with outcrops that provide for a scenic view of nearby Brigham and Blue Mounds Parks.

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

## Aug. 13, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Reed Canary-grass Control & Oak Establishment with Fire, Dane County, WI

Come see what effect decades of annual fire & sunlight have on establishing oak seedlings and in the gradual conversion of dense reed canary-grass to native sedge meadow and wet prairie at TPE's Sugar River Savanna. This diverse 9-acre oak savanna has been restored with near annual fire for 41 years. There are now 400 native plant species present.

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

## Aug. 19, 9:30 a.m. to ?

Prairie Days @ Simply Dunn, E4606 County Road C, Menomonie, WI

Come learn about prairies, savannas and fire dependent communities with the Chippewa Savannas Chapter and Dr. Stanley Templeton. Fun for the whole family.

Contact: Joe Maurer, 715-533-9934 or [prairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com](mailto:prairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com)



## Aug. 20, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Schurch-Thomson and Underwood Prairies, Iowa County, WI

Come hike into the secluded valley of TPE's Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies for an evening of exploring dry and dry-mesic prairie remnants. Watch the progress made here recovering degraded and overgrown prairie sod, and efforts at inter-seeding prairie vegetation into smooth brome sod.

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

## Aug. 26, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Holland Sand Prairie, La Crosse County, WI

This protected remnant prairie is one of the few remaining large Mississippi River terrace prairies. The 61-acre property has many sand-loving plant species, and many grassland bird species nest at the site.

Trip Leader: Jim Rogala, 608-799-6344 or [jrogala58@gmail.com](mailto:jrogala58@gmail.com)





### Aug. 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Blazingstars of Smith-Reiner Drumlins, Dane County, WI

Come see the species of *Liatris* blooming on the drumlins and valleys of TPE's Smith/Reiner Drumlin Prairie. There will be Rough Blazing Star and Cylindrical Blazing Star, and the valleys in-between will have Gay Feather. There will also be Gentians and a host of other blooming prairie specialists.

*Trip Leader: Gary Birch, 608-873-8837 or gbirch@chorus.net*

### Sept. 3, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie, La Crosse County, WI

Warm season grasses and late summer blooming species such as asters, blazing stars, gentians, and sunflowers will be on display along the old railroad right-of-way at this time of year. This will be a leisurely walk on level terrain.

*Trip Leader: Jim Rogala, 608-799-6344 or jrogala58@gmail.com*

### Aug. 26, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Berg Prairie SNA, La Crosse County, WI

Berg Prairie is one of many hill prairie remnants in the Coulee Experimental Forest. It has had some intensive management recently, and we'll look at the results. We'll access the site from a TPE member's property where we can look at prairie plantings as we hike out.

*Trip Leader: Jim Rogala, 608-799-6344 or jrogala58@gmail.com*

### Aug. 26, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mecan Prairie, Waushara County, WI

The Mecan Prairie restorations were done to create habitat for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly and many species of grassland birds. There is also a 15-acre oak savanna that is under active management. John Shillinglaw, the property manager, will discuss his management plans for endangered birds as well as Karner blues.

*Trip Leader: John Shillinglaw, 608-298-7756, 920-213-8037 or jashlaw@aol.com*



### Sept. 10, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Hike Pleasure Valley, Dane County, WI.

Hike from Blue Mounds State Park to TPE's Parrish Savanna on a beautiful 5-mile hike from Blue Mound State Park north through Pleasure Valley to the TPE Parrish Savanna Conservancy, SNA. The entire trip will be through conservation land. Expect rugged conditions with some off-trail hiking in a mostly wooded landscape.

*Trip Leaders: Ken Wade and Pat Trochlell, 608-767-3111 or email kenneth.wade@tds.net*



**September 17, 1:00 to 4:00 PM.**

*Shea Prairie, Iowa County, WI.*

This 100-acre sub-unit of the TPE's Mounds View Grassland, a landscape-scale 570-acre project that supports a rich array of grassland birds, original prairie sod, rare prairie and savanna species, cold water streams, springs, seeps and wetlands, has undergone major stream, wetland, and prairie restoration over the past 5 years.

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



*Thanks for your interest and support of these wonderful native prairies.  
We hope to meet you out on one of these great tours!*

*Photos courtesy of Ray Goehring, Dianne Hills, Evanne Hunt, Joshua Meyer, Kevin O'brien and Eric Thomsen*