

The Prairie Enthusiasts



Prairie Promoter Field Trip Guide: July 28 – Nov. 1, 2018

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 (http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/calendar_month.asp) or by calling the office at 608-387-1873.

Contact your tour leader if you have questions about the trip or if the weather is questionable.

July 28, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guided Tour of Young Prairie & Lunch at Trout House in Palmyra, Jefferson and Walworth counties, Wis.

Young Prairie features a large wet-mesic prairie containing rare plants and animals. More than 80 species of native plants have been found, such as compass plant, prairie dock, blazing-star, purple prairie-clover, lead-plant, shooting-star, Turks cap lily, coneflower, sunflowers, goldenrods, asters. Bird visitors include common yellowthroat, sedge wren and swamp sparrow.

Trip Leaders: Zach Kasten & Walter Mirk, Contact: Alice Mirk, aimirk68@icloud.com

July 28, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Whitewater Wildlife Management Area Prairies & Savannas, Winona County, Minn.

This site has a savanna and prairie complex and outstanding biodiversity, including several rare or endangered plant and animal species. The field trip will follow about a mile of WMA access road on fairly level ground, but field trip participants will have the opportunity to hike up adjacent steep bluff prairies if they'd like.

Trip Leader: Christine Johnson, Assistant Manager, Whitewater WMA. Contact: Stephen Winter, 402-310-5460 or stephen.winter@okstate.edu

July 29, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Bike Tour – Sugar River Meadowlands, Dane County, Wis.

Come for a leisurely 16-mile bike ride on the Military Ridge State Trail from Verona to Klevenville along the Sugar River. We will stop frequently to learn about the valley's original wetland and prairie landscape, and to see and explore remnants of these ecosystems. Is there potential to restore the Sugar River and its associated wetlands and wet prairies along this stretch of the river? Weigh in.

Trip Leaders: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065, or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net, Pat Trochlell & Ken Wade

August 1, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Sugar River Oak Savanna, Dane County, Wis.

This TPE preserve is a highly diverse, nine-acre oak savanna with nearly 400 native plant species. It still shows a few signs of past use as a pasture, but 42 years of near annual fire has fostered a remarkable recovery.

Trip leader: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net



Bottle gentian (Photo by Rich Henderson)

August 4, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairies, Dane County, Wis.

Come see this 40-acre TPE preserve that has two gravel and sand drumlin prairie remnants nestled among prairie restoration plantings in their fifth growing season. Dwarf blazing-star and other summer prairie flowers should be in bloom. This site has spectacular displays of flowers.

Trip leaders: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net & Gary Birch, 608- 873-8837 or 608- 332-8837 or gbirch@chorus.net



Giant false foxglove (Photo by Rich Henderson)

August 4, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Maggie Jones & Bruce Nowlin Prairie, Lake Crystal, Minn.

Maggie has put much of the family farm into prairie in the last 20 years. It includes short and long grass prairie, wetland and pollinator plots. Maggie and Bruce have been crop consultants and have used their skills to manage the transition to prairie after years of corn and beans.

Tour Leader: Maggie Jones, Contact: Chris Hughes, 507-304-2164

August 4, 10 a.m. - noon

Iris Drive Prairie Hike, Gays Mills, Wis.

Join us at TPE's Southwest Chapter's newest prairie remnant. We will hike the two remnants there 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

August 4, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Minneopa State Park Tour, Mankato, Minn.

The tour will highlight on-going management of this unique oak savanna and bison reintroduction efforts at the park.

Tour Leaders: Linda Engstrom & Molly Tranel, Contact: Chris Hughes, 507-304-2164

August 5, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Drawn to Nature, Seymour Prairies, Eau Claire, Wis.

Join TPE member and artist Joe Maurer for a few hours of drawing in the prairie. All levels of experience are welcome. Joe will do a short demonstration at the start of the session.

Event Leader: Joe Maurer, theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com

August 9, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Sugar River Oak Savanna, Dane County, Wis.

This TPE preserve is a highly diverse nine-acre oak savanna with nearly 400 native plant species. With 42 years of near annual fire, the recovery is remarkable and includes false foxglove, woodland Joe-Pye-weed and many other mid-summer savanna and woodland wildflowers in full bloom.

Trip leader: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net

August 11, 10:00 to noon

Johnstown Road Hill Prairies, Crawford County, Wis.

Several landowners along Johnstown Road have been managing their hill prairies. We'll hike these remnants looking for late-summer blooming species, and perhaps come across a lizard, as we did on our last hike.

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

August 12, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Alexander Savanna, River Falls, Wis.

Join us for tours of this beautiful oak savanna, meet the TPE president and executive director, enjoy light snacks and beverages.

Trip Leader: Evanne Hunt, evanne.hunt@gmail.com



Cream gential at Sugar River Savanna (Photo by Rich Henderson)



Dwarf blazing-star at Smith-Reiner Prairie (Photo by Rich Henderson)

August 18, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Reviving a Lost Prairie Landscape – Mounds View Grassland, Iowa County, Wis.

Come for a day of hiking across TPE's 570-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will encounter rich displays of late summer prairie flowers. Along the way, there will be opportunities to observe many species of butterflies, dragonflies and bumblebees.

Trip leader: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065, or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net

August 18, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Prairie Flower Hike at Borah Creek Prairie, Fennimore, Wis.

Wisconsin's third largest population of prairie bush-clover can be found on these 140 acres of dry prairie. Many other rare plants and grassland birds are at the site. The hike is co-offered by TPE and Mississippi Valley Conservancy.

Trip leaders: Mississippi Valley Conservancy, 608-784-3606, or Jim Rogala, jrogala58@gmail.com, 608-799-6344 - call or text.

August 18, noon to 3:00 p.m.

Willow River State Park, Hudson, Wis.

Prairie Days! Start with a hike and plant identification at noon; tour exhibits outside the nature center at 1:15 p.m.; watch TPE video "Prairie Enthusiasm" at the nature center at 2:00 p.m. followed by Dr. Stanley Temple's talk: "Aldo Leopold was for the Birds!"

Temple will review Leopold's love of birds and birding and explain why his writings are so important for bird conservation efforts today. Event is FREE to attend but vehicle admission into the park is required.

Trip Leader: Buck Malick, malickcw@baldwin-telecom.net, 715-386-7010

August 25, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie, Dane County, Wis.

Join us as we tour this TPE prairie during the late season bloom. *Liatris* will be the stars of the show with ridiculous amounts of blooms. Gentians and rosinweed should also be in bloom. The resident marsh hawks are also invited, and they may make an appearance depending on what's being served for dinner.

Tour Guides: Gary Birch & Jane Graham; Contact Birch, 608-873-8837 or cell 608-332-8837 or gbirch@chorus.net

August 26, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Shea Prairie Restorations & Remnants, Iowa County, Wis.

This 100-acre unit of TPE's Mounds View Grassland, a landscape-scale 570-acre project, has undergone major stream, wetland and prairie restoration over the past five years. The restored vegetation is starting to take off. A great display of cream gentians should be in store for us.

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

September 1, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Schurch-Thomson Prairie in late Summer, Iowa County, Wis.

Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat filled with meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers and Henslow's sparrows.

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



Rough blazing-star at Smith-Reiner Prairie (Photo by Eric Preston)



blazing-star & rattlesnake master at Sugar River Savanna (Photo by Rich Henderson)

September 3, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy (PVC) Annual Labor Day Trip, Dane County, Wis.

The PVC State Natural Area is a 140-acre natural area owned by Savanna Oak Foundation and TPE. The property contains prairie remnants, wetlands and extensive oak savannas. It's been under intensive management for the past 20 years. The trip is co-sponsored with the Madison Audubon Society.

Trip Leaders: Kathie & Tom Brock, 608-238-5050 or kmbrock@charter.net

September 3, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Holland Sand Prairie, La Crosse County, Wis.

This 61-acre Mississippi River terrace prairie has many sand-loving plant species. With any luck, we'll see a massive display of rough blazing-star, along with other late summer bloomers.

Trip leader: Jim Rogala, jrogala58@gmail.com, 608-799-6344 - call or text

September 8, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

La Crosse River State Trail's Rockland Prairie, La Crosse County, Wis.

Warm season grasses and late summer blooms, including asters, blazing-stars, gentians and native sunflowers will be on display along the old railroad right-of-way this time of year.

Trip leader: Jim Rogala, jrogala58@gmail.com, 608-799-6344 -call or text

September 8, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Scattered, actively managed hill prairies, La Crosse County, Wis.

Come see the results of management efforts to enhance and enlarge these privately owned hill prairies near Rockland. There are also prairie plantings on the lower slopes to see.

Trip leader: Jim Rogala, jrogala58@gmail.com, 608-799-6344 - call or text

September 8, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Cross Plains State Park, Cross Plains, Dane County, Wis.

This fascinating site is part of a 750-acre complex of federal, state and county protected land managed in part by the Ice Age Trail Alliance. It contains a beautiful restored oak savanna and bluff top views typical of the area, but the major attraction is the dramatic Wilkie Gorge, carved as a drainage channel at the terminal moraine edge of the glaciers. The gorge formed a fire shadow area, creating a rare example of an original maple/basswood forest immediately adjacent to the prairie and savanna. This tour will provide a great opportunity to learn about the glacial geology of our area and its effects on the local plant communities.

Trip Leader: Scott Fulton, 608-345-8297 or president@theprairieenthusiasts.org

September 9, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Shea Prairie Restorations and Remnants, Iowa County, Wis.

This 100-acre unit of TPE's Mounds View Grassland, a landscape-scale 570-acre project, has undergone major stream, wetland and prairie restoration over the past five years. The restored vegetation is starting to take off. Displays of bottle and cream gentians should be in store for us.

Contact: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net



Woodland Joe-pye-weed at Sugar River Savanna (Photo by Rich Henderson)



Hikers at Iris Drive Prairie (Photo by Gary Eldred)

September 9, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hanley Savanna Tour, Hanover, Ill. (no description available)

Trip Leader: Laura Dufford, 815-541-8958 or lauradufford@gmail.com

Sept. 16, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Reviving a Lost Prairie Landscape – Mounds View Grassland, Iowa Co., Wis.

Come for a day of hiking across TPE's 570-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will explore the progress being made in bringing back to life degraded remnant prairies. We will encounter late summer prairie wildflowers such as bottle, fringed and prairie gentians, asters and goldenrods.

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

September 29, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Foxglove Savanna, Sauk County, Wis.

Come and explore the many species of grassland and savannas that bloom elmleaf goldenrod, cream gentian and aster. Migratory species include warblers, red-headed woodpecker and field sparrow, as well as bumblebees. We will ramble over savanna and grassland communities that have been under management for between 10 and 30 years. See the change that management brings.

Trip Leader: Jeb Barzen, 608-544-2107 or 608-370-3122 or Jeb@privatelandconservation.org

October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TPE's Chippewa Savannas Prairie Days, Downsville, Wis.

Come to Simply Dunn in Downsville for our Prairie Days! The day will be filled with presentations, discussions, art and excitement.

Trip Leader: Amy Delyea-Petska. Contact: theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com

October 13, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mecan Prairie Tour, Waushara County. Wis.

Join John Shillinglaw and TPE's Prairie Sands Chapter for a work day from 9 – 10:30 a.m., then tour the prairie and savanna. Lunch will be provided for workers. Bring your own picnic if you can only make the tour. After lunch, we can do more "prairie-ing" or some of you might want to bring canoes or kayaks.

Tour Leader: John Schillinglaw, 920-213-8037

Thanks for your interest and support of these native prairies. We hope to meet you out there!

Bring a friend.



Hill climbing, Iris Drive Prairie (Photo by Gary Eldred)