



www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 21, NO. 3 Autumn 2008

*Grassroots Conservation at Work*

## President's Message

By Evanne Hunt

New officers were elected at the July 13 Board meeting. This meeting preceded the TPE annual picnic held at the Schurch-Thomson Prairie near Blue Mounds.

It is my pleasure to introduce your new TPE officers for 2008-2010:

Vice President, Jack Kussmaul  
Secretary, Jan Amberson  
Treasurer, Nick Faessler

The **President** is the principal executive officer of the corporation and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervises and controls the business and affairs of the corporation.

The **Vice President** performs the duties of the President if she is incapacitated. The expectation is that the vice president is "in training" to become the next president.

The **Secretary** keeps the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings, sees that all notices are given, and is custodian of the corporate records.

The **Treasurer** is responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation; receives and give receipts for moneys due, and deposits all money in the name of the corporation into banks and trusts.

Please thank these people when you see them. Running The Prairie Enthusiasts organization requires a special commitment beyond that of board member.

All TPE board members are dedicated to ensuring the best possible use of resources, absolute integrity in all our activities, and meeting the needs of every TPE member. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, contact me (715-381-1291) or your chapter's board representative:

Coulee Region -- Jim Rogala  
Empire Sauk -- Rich Henderson

Northwest Illinois -- Karin Strenski  
Prairie Bluff -- Nick Faessler  
Prairie Sands -- vacant (volunteer opportunity!)  
Prairie Smoke -- vacant (volunteer opportunity!)  
Southwest -- Jim Sime  
St. Croix Valley -- Jan Amberson

## Rare Find at Schurch-Thomson Prairie

Contributed by Ann Thering

The leadplants at TPE's Schurch-Thompson Prairie attracted a dime-sized visitor from the southwestern United States this year. On July 19, my husband and I discovered a beautiful Marine Blue butterfly nectaring on leadplant. Thanks to wonderful restoration work, Schurch-Thompson is always a great place to seek butterflies in July, with many Regal Fritillaries, Coral Hairstreaks and more. The Marine Blue was a special surprise.

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Rare Butterfly Sighting</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>TPE at NAPC</b>	<b>Pages 2-3</b>
<b>Tools and Techniques</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Internship Program</b>	<b>Page 3-4</b>
<b>Tame Badgers</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Northern Prairies</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Pages 5-6</b>
<b>Invasive Plant: Hill Mustard</b>	<b>Pages 6-8</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Pages 8-9</b>
<b>Chapter News</b>	<b>Pages 9-12</b>
<b>New Members and Donors</b>	<b>Pages 13-15</b>

## TPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS	
President	Evanne Hunt <i>St. Croix Valley Chapter</i>
Vice-President	Jack Kussmaul
Secretary	Jan Amberson
Treasurer	Nick Faessler
DIRECTORS	
Jim Rogala, <i>Coulee Region Chapter</i>	
Karin Strenski, <i>Northwest Illinois Chapter</i>	
Richard Henderson, <i>Empire Sauk Chapter</i>	
Nick Faessler, <i>Prairie Bluff Chapter</i>	
vacant, <i>Prairie Sands Chapter</i>	
vacant, <i>Prairie Smoke Chapter</i>	
Jim Sime, <i>Southwest Chapter</i>	
Gary Eldred, <i>Director Emeritus</i>	
STAFF	
Business Manager	Carol Winge
Membership Coordinator	Victoria Oberle
Restoration Ecologist	Amy Staffen

*TPE was incorporated in Wisconsin in 1987 as a private nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under section [501(c) 3] of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.*

### EDITORIAL VOLUNTEERS

Coulee Region Chapter 608-435-6203	Don Nelson Don094@centurytel.net
Empire Sauk Chapter 608-233-2483	Cate Harrington Charrington@tnc.org
Northwest Illinois Chapter 815-947-2287	Rickie Rachuy TPE@mwci.net
Prairie Bluff Chapter 608-368-0901	Rob Baller baller@ticon.net
Prairie Sands Chapter	Shelley Hamel sdhamel@maQs.net
Prairie Smoke Chapter 507-867-9229	Andrea Mueller andreahilltoparts@msn.com
Southwest Wisconsin Chapter 608-794-2724	Jesse Bennett jesse@ driftlesslandstewardship.com
St. Croix Valley Chapter 715-425-7227	Donna O'Keefe Eokeffe@presenter.com
The Prairie Promoter Editor	Jesse Boyett Anderson jesse@nasw.org

*The Prairie Promoter is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome submissions of articles, announcements, artwork and photographs that are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail to local chapter editorial volunteers or e-mail submissions to jesse@nasw.org. Use MS Word and do not format. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are March 4 (Spring issue); May 23 (Summer issue); August 22 (Fall issue); and November 28 (Winter issue).*

*If you would prefer to receive electronic notification of the newsletter please email Victoria at TPE@TDS.net.*

*Marine Blue, continued from page 1.*

No one knows why, but occasionally these little lepidopterans migrate north, aided by winds. This butterfly has been spotted once before in Wisconsin. A couple of weeks before our sighting, a few Marine Blues were found in Toronto. So, the next time you see a tiny, blue butterfly that doesn't look quite right, look again and check your field guide (Jeffery Glassberg's *Butterflies through Binoculars: The East* is a good guide for our area.)

The Marine Blue eats various legumes as a caterpillar. Because we found such a fresh butterfly, it's likely they have established a temporary colony in the preserve or nearby. Unfortunately, none of the eggs will survive Wisconsin's cold winter.

For more information on butterfly field trips, the best close-focusing binoculars, butterfly gardening and more, visit the Web site of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/>.

## TPE at the 2008 North American Prairie Conference

Members from at least six chapters attended the North American Prairie Conference (NAPC) in Winona from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. TPE had an informational display and brochures about the organization. We also had the Proceedings from the 2004 NAPC in Madison for sale, as well as the field guide by Merel Black and Emmet Judziewicz. Thanks to conference coordinator Bruno Borsari for allowing TPE to exhibit in exchange for allowing NAPC to exhibit at our annual conference in La Crosse. Also thanks to the volunteers (Tom and Kathy Brock, Joel Dunnette, Rich Henderson, Abbie Meyer, Jim Rogala, Jim and Rose Sime) who staffed the display and aggressively sold TPE and the books.

Several TPE members presented research. John Harrington gave two talks on the remnant mapping project that involved TPE. John Shillinglaw presented his research on Karner Blue butterfly dispersion to lupine plantings. Craig Annen presented some old and new findings related to Reed Canary Grass control. Marilyn Klinker presented prairie artistry.

TPE members also led field trips. Joel Dunnette led a trip at Chester Woods and Jaime Edwards hosted folks at the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. George Howe, Abbie Meyer, and Jim Rogala showed off the Holland Sand Prairie and joined Bob Lee on the La Crosse River Bike Trail hike.



Jim and Rose Sime greet visitors at the TPE display at NAPC. Photo by Jim Rogala

## Tools and Techniques: Painless Brush Management

By Rose and Jim Sime

We hired Nemo, Mia, Ceci and Clementine to work at our spaceship this summer. These four-legged employees, along with 67 others, created quite an impact on portions of our 71-acre property. By the end of their four-week contract, the mid-story of the woods surrounding our unusual cabin looked as though a prescribed burn had taken place.

Nemo and company ate the parsnips and nettle, burdock burrs and flowers, and Queen' Anne's Lace seeds and flowers in two seven-acre paddocks. The goats stripped the leaves from multiflora rose, blackberries and raspberries and ate the thorns. They climbed up on Tall Prickly Ash, Dogwood and Boxelder up to two inches in diameter and rode it down in order to devour the leaves and bark.

We are curious to see how the goats' work differs from fire. One seven-acre goat paddock bordered endangered October Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes ovais*). We hope that the Ladies Tresses will expand into the newly-disturbed area. The paddock included a large population of threatened Cream Genetian (*Genetiana alba*), the occasional Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*), and the location where an endangered Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias purpurea*) flowered two years ago. We plan to follow the effects of grazing on these threatened and endangered species.

There are more than 320 other naturally occurring native species on the property. We speculate that light grazing helped maintain the diversity on this piece of

land. Wheat farmers settled the land where we now live. Settlement drove off the big herbivores and stopped the naturally occurring fires. When wheat rust eliminated wheat as a profitable crop, the farmers quickly shifted to dairy farming. Cattle grazing preserved the area's open landscape.

While farmers grazed some lands intensively, the dissected topography rendered some parcels difficult to use. These areas outside the tillable acreage, far from the dairy barn, or across cropland were only lightly grazed. This kept shade plants at bay without decimating the native plant population. By returning to grazing, we hope to have a positive impact on some of the endangered species on our property.

Although the goats got into some mischief, we were thrilled with the frolicsome workers we hired from the Driftless Land Stewardship. After two weeks, we moved the goats to a new paddock. In the process, we got tangled in the solar net fencing, fell face first in the dirt and got shocked a time or two. We also had to round the goats back up after a large tree fell onto the paddock fence. The goats went over, under and through the felled fence to sample the more inviting foliage on the other side. Perhaps they were searching for garlic mustard, one of their favorite foods.

Our property is located within the Snow Bottom State Natural Area. It has a high Floristic Quality Index (75.3) and a high average Coefficient of Conservatism (5.0). We hope our experience can help inform the management of other such sites with exceptional diversity.

## TPE Internship Program Grows During 2008

By Amy Staffen, TPE Restoration Manager

For the second summer running, The Prairie Enthusiasts (Empire-Sauk Chapter) participated in the Prairie Partner Internship Program. Five interns did restoration work at a different preserve every day: Mounds View Grassland (The Prairie Enthusiasts), Pleasant Valley Conservancy (Tom & Kathie Brock), Lakeshore Nature Preserve (UW-Madison), Holy Wisdom Monastery and Goose Pond Sanctuary (Madison Audubon Society). They worked assiduously to control invasive plants at Schurch-Thomson, A to Z and Shea Prairies. They also counted rare plants and animals, collected and cleaned seed, and maintained the seed orchard.

Interns Matt Ziehr, Greg Skupien, Amanda Budyak and Emily Werlein recently graduated from UW-Madison, while Ted Keyel currently attends UW-Steven's

Point. Funding for the Prairie Partner interns came in part from a Landowner Incentive Program grant for Mounds View Grassland.

TPE used funds from a Wildlife Conservation Society grant to hire three additional interns: Tiffany Thompson and Erica Briggs from UW-Platteville and Megan Goplin from UW-Madison. They worked in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA) every weekday during the summer months. On Mondays, they combined their efforts with the Prairie Partner interns. The rest of the week, they fulfilled a variety of responsibilities. They developed outreach materials to promote knowledge of declining species and native plant communities in the MRPHA, including kiosk displays, brochures, fact sheets and newspaper articles. They also conducted restoration activities on privately owned sites managed by TPE including the Bigler, Schuelke, Stauffer, Williams and Monroe-Romolino properties.



*Interns prepare to cut brush. Photo by Amy Staffen.*

Some Prairie Enthusiasts, including Jim and Rose Sime (Southwest Chapter) met these three young ladies at the TPE annual picnic; as a result of their conversation, the UW-Platteville Reclamation Club will help restore TPE-managed properties in the future.

Highlights of this field season include: Counting 986 Hill's thistles and 467 prairie turnips at Schurch-Thomson Prairie, two excellent badger sightings (see related article by Rich Henderson), a bull snake sighting at Schurch-Thomson, rare plant discoveries at Shea Prairie (one-flowered broomrape) and Schuelke Prairie (tuberous Indian plantain), and novel Regal Fritillary butterfly sightings at A to Z Farms.

"I have learned so much more this summer than I ever imagined. My family didn't quite understand why I enjoyed a job where I worked hard out in the sun among the ticks, chiggers, gnats and poison ivy, but it's because we did great work and we had an awesome crew!" – Tiffany Thompson, intern

As supervisor of the eight summer interns, I can't express enough the joy and satisfaction I took from seeing these young people discovering the magic of our prairies and the importance of the work that we do. Every one of them carried an amazing sense of wonder and inquisitiveness, as well as a deep passion for the natural world and conservation. Working with them has given me hope for the future!

Special thanks go to our partners at Madison Audubon Society for administering payroll for our interns for a reasonable fee, and to Tom and Kathie Brock for coordinating the interviewing and hiring processes. I also acknowledge Dr. Tom Hunt, UW-Platteville, for providing his students with this exciting opportunity to learn, for visiting Schurch-Thomson Prairie to see their work site, and for considering future collaboration opportunities between the University and TPE.

## Friendly Badgers?

By Rich Henderson

After years of exposure to the army of volunteers, student interns and researchers working at TPE's Schurch-Thomson Prairie and the neighboring Underwood Prairie over the past several years, the resident badgers may have become habituated to people. A couple of years ago, DNR bird researcher John Dadisman startled a badger during the day. The badger quickly left. John also captured a night-time image of an elusive badger at the preserve on a motion sensitive camera.

This year, however, the badgers have not shied away. Here is what Amy Staffen, our Restoration Ecologist and intern supervisor, reported on badger behavior this year at Schurch-Thomson Prairie.

"We seem to have a curious badger at Schurch-Thomson! On July 22, Jan Ketelle was 'investigated' numerous times by a badger at close range in Unit 6A. Yesterday, on August 14, the interns and I were also 'investigated' at the east end of Unit 1. We were at the base of the slope looking for prairie bush

clover. The badger shuffled loudly through the grass and peered at us from a distance of about 20 feet. (S)he moved quickly back and forth in the grass taking a gander at us every few minutes with beady, intense black eyes. After about five minutes, the animal took off in a huff toward the big draw on the Underwood property.

Jan described similar behavior, though I think that the animal she saw came within 10 feet or so. Isn't that cool? The interns were absolutely delighted (as was I)! This was their last field day with me -- nice way to end their internship."

We hope you too have the good fortune of seeing the curious badgers at Schurch-Thomson Prairie on your next visit; just don't try to pet them!

## Northerners Enthusiastic About Prairies

By Jim Rogala

Many times a year, I travel to northern Wisconsin to enjoy the lakes and forests. Recently, I saw some prairie/savanna in the "Northwoods". During my August trip to the Hayward area, I made it to TPE-member Damian Vraniak's annual prairie tour near Springbrook. Damian has worked with various agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US National Park Service to restore his family's lands to the open land it once was. Of course, Damian and his wife, Nancy, have done more than their share of the labor on this large restoration project! The fruits of their labor were evident as Damian showed off his work to the 30 or so visitors.

The visitors' enthusiasm for prairies and savannas impressed me, especially in a landscape that appears devoid of these natural communities. Many folks were already involved in planting prairies, and many others were considering some restoration of open lands on properties they owned. Some folks were actually interested in volunteering their time to work on prairies (sound familiar?). It was great to witness such enthusiasm for prairies and savannas. Many thanks to Damian for helping Northerners share in our fondness of prairies.

## The Influence of Biodiversity on Ecosystem Processes

The following article is published with permission of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (<http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/>). Cedar Creek is a large ecological research site in central Minnesota. Much of their research is conducted on prairie plants

### Why study biodiversity?

Earth's biodiversity—or biological diversity—is one of our planet's most striking features. The variety of life, long a source of wonderment and scientific curiosity, has recently become a source of concern as human influence

reduces the diversity of species in many habitats worldwide. "But what good is a snake, or a mosquito, or a cocklebur?" one might ask. "If they were extinct, it wouldn't bother me one bit." Or would it? One of today's big questions is to what extent this loss of diversity matters. In other words, does biodiversity affect the way an ecosystem operates - does biodiversity influence the stability, productivity and sustainability of an ecosystem? An ecosystem such as...Earth.

### Biodiversity Research

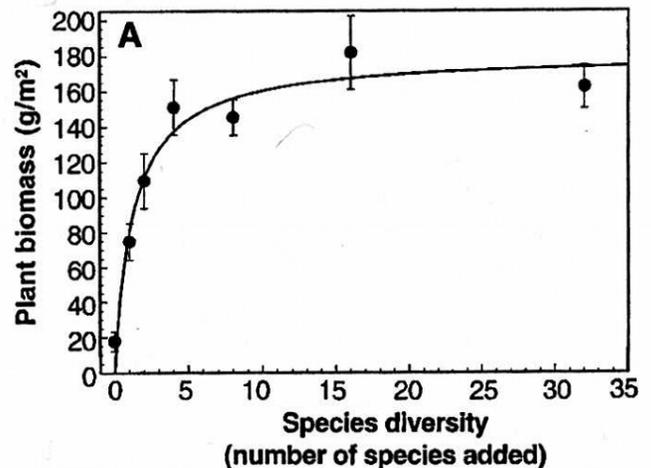
Charles Darwin was one of the first scientists to hypothesize the impact of biodiversity on ecosystem processes. After a lapse of more than a century, research on the topic began in earnest in the 1990s. Here at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, two major experiments began in 1994. Dubbed Biodiversity I and Biodiversity II, they were designed to use prairie ecosystems to study the effects of plant diversity on:

- ❖ Primary productivity (measure of biomass; how much a plant grows in a year)
- ❖ Levels of carbon and nitrogen in the soil
- ❖ Overall stability of the ecosystem
- ❖ Resistance to invasion by unwanted species ("weedy" plants)

### Research Results

After nearly 15 years of study, several trends have emerged from the Biodiversity experiments. These include:

Plant productivity significantly increases as diversity increases. Simply stated, plants in diverse plantings tend to produce more biomass, or growth above and below ground, than plants in less diverse situations.



Plants have to compete for water, sun and soil nutrients. Compared to a monoculture such as corn or

switchgrass, plants in a diverse planting comprise a variety of species, each using the resources in a different way.

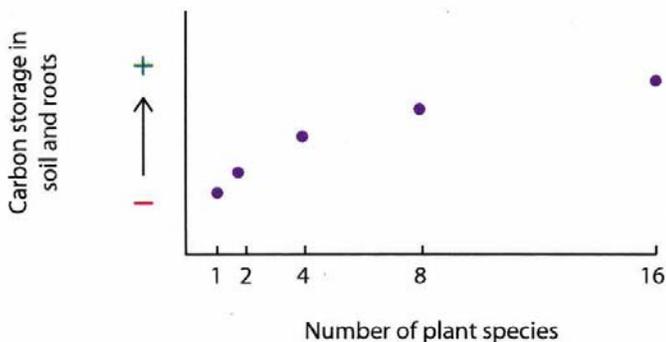
Yet, because there is such a range of plants, resources are used efficiently and productivity, or biomass, increases. It's the same idea behind a city full of various occupations and one filled with only, say, lawyers. Which would be more productive?

Plant productivity increases as functional diversity increases. An extension of the first trend, this means productivity increases not only with an increase in species diversity, but when those species are members of four groups, each with a distinct function in prairie ecosystems. They are:

- ❖ C3 grasses (cool weather grasses)
- ❖ C4 grasses (warm weather grasses)
- ❖ Forbs (broad-leafed, flowering plants)
- ❖ Legumes (forbs that “fix” nitrogen)

These four groups work together to maximize resource use resulting in increased biomass production.

Carbon dioxide uptake increases as biodiversity increases. Plants use carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, to photosynthesize and produce new biomass. The more plants grow, the more CO<sub>2</sub> is used, or sequestered. If a more diverse planting produces more biomass (both above and under the ground—remember the roots!) then a more diverse planting will also sequester more CO<sub>2</sub> than a monoculture.

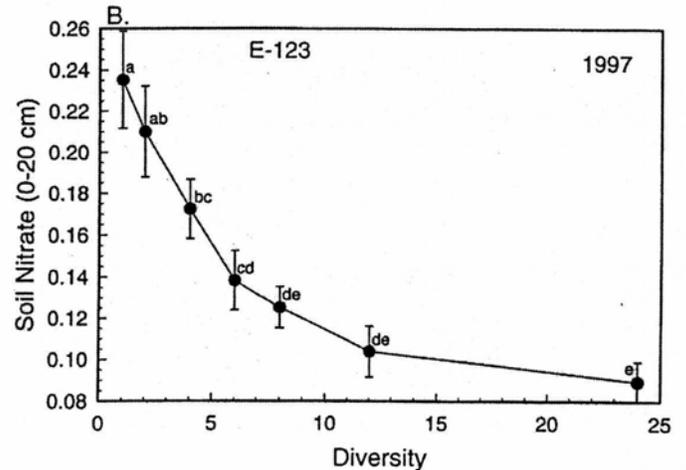


Soil nitrogen levels decrease as biodiversity increases. The element nitrogen is essential for plant growth. While nitrogen composes 78% of Earth's atmosphere, most plants are unable to use nitrogen in this gaseous form.

Legumes, via symbiotic bacteria in their roots, take nitrogen from the air and “fix” it into a form they can use. Excess nitrogenous compounds not used by the legume leach out into the soil for use by other plants.

Diverse plantings contain more legumes, meaning more nitrogen in the soil for the other plants. A variety of plants will each use nitrogen in a particular way with

overall increased efficiency than a monoculture. Hence, the graph shows a decrease in overall soil nitrogen.



The overall stability of an area increases as plant biodiversity increases. An area with a variety of species is more resistant to adverse conditions than a monoculture. For example, in a drought, plants susceptible to low water amounts may decrease in productivity, but those that are drought-resistant will survive and may increase their productivity due to decreased competition from the drought-susceptible species. The entire grassland will weather the drought whereas a monoculture that is dependent on water may have limited success and will generally show a decrease in biomass.

Invasion of weedy plant species decreases as plant biodiversity increases. A more diverse planting of prairie species tends to keep its same species composition while preventing establishment of weedy species. The low soil nitrogen levels found with increased plant biodiversity seems to be the key—weedy plants compete better in areas with high soil nitrogen.

## Hill Mustard on the Move in Southwestern Wisconsin

By Mark J Renz<sup>1</sup>, Jerry D Doll, and Brendon Panke

This article originally appeared in the newsletter of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

Hill mustard (*Bunias orientalis* L.) is a non-native, invasive weed found in southwestern Wisconsin. This

<sup>1</sup> Extension Weed Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Agronomy Department, mrenz@wisc.edu

plant was first documented by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Herbarium in Wisconsin in 1958 at the intersection of County Highway N and Buehler Road (approximately 3 miles north of Monroe), but recently has been spreading rapidly throughout CRP fields, along roadsides, and in other minimally disturbed areas. Once established this plant forms a monoculture of hill mustard plants. Hill mustard is also called Turkish rocket, Turkish warty-cabbage, warty cabbage, and warted bunias.

## Origin and Distribution

Hill mustard is native to southern Europe, but has invaded most European countries. Within the United States it is present within several eastern states including Virginia, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Road inspections, which have been carried out in this area since 2005, have found that the hill mustard infestations continue to spread along roadside and field edges in the vicinity of the original infestation. Major road construction along County Highway N in the past year may facilitate the spread of Hill mustard to an even greater degree. Hill mustard has been reported from as far away as New Glarus (approximately 10 miles from the original infestation). Additional infestations have been found in Lafayette County, indicating its ability to spread long distances.

## Identification

Leaves on mature plants can be 12 or more inches long (basal leaves) and become progressively smaller up the stem. Leaves are lanceolate, highly lobed with sharp points.

Stems are erect, 10 to 45 inches tall and are branched in the upper region as flowering begins. A key characteristic of hill mustard is the “warty bumps” (tubercles) on the stems which are easily felt by running your finger over the stem surface. Leaves may also have tubercles and these structures give rise to the name “warty cabbage.” Both leaves and stems are somewhat hairy.

Flowers have bright yellow petals, and are very

fragrant and are borne on dense racemes.

Fruits are ovate, irregularly warty, 0.25 to 0.4 inches long, contain 2 to 4 seeds, and are borne on stalks about 0.5 inch long.

Taproots on older plants are at least 1 inch in diameter and appear in clusters of multiple thick roots. The central part of the root is often partially rotted away

Seedlings have long to oval cotyledons up to 1 inch long. The first true leaves are round to ovate and entire. Subsequent leaves on seedling plants are arranged in a rosette, are slightly toothed, become very long and have a rough feel and prominent veins.

Similar species: Hill mustard resembles yellow rocket from a distance but is easily distinguished by its leaf shape and size, stem texture, height and fruits. Leaves of yellow rocket do not have pointed lobes and are hairless unlike hill mustard which has toothed and hairy leaves. Yellow rocket stems also never have tubercles (warty bumps) found on hill mustard.

## Biology

Hill Mustard is described as having either a biennial or perennial life cycle, but observations in Wisconsin suggest most plants behave as perennials. This plant is considered an aggressive invader in Central Europe (Steinlein et al., 1996). Researchers in Europe believe its success is due to its ability to establish rapidly and displace desired native species (Dietz et al., 1996). Adult plants can survive for many years and populations spread from seed (Dietz, 2002). In Wisconsin the majority of the seeds germinate in the spring, although seedlings can emerge later in the season, especially if the soil is disturbed. Plants flower in their second year or later.

## Control

A range of management methods exist, but have not been rigorously tested. It has been observed that successful management of this species should focus on suppressing plants, preventing seed



Hill Mustard. Photo by Mark Renz

production, and planting/promoting the establishment and growth of desirable plants that can compete against hill mustard.

Mechanical methods are effective at preventing seed production if plants are mowed before seeds are produced. This will not kill established plants and plants will resprout and require mowing several times per year to prevent seed production.

Tillage can dislodge the roots of hill mustard from the soil and likely will kill some, but not all plants depending on how aggressively the soil is tilled. Tillage alone is generally not recommended as any disturbance of the soil will promote germination of hill mustard seeds.

Herbicides have been tested in Wisconsin and some were found to be successful in killing the perennial plants, if applied in the fall before a hard freeze. Research has shown that herbicides that contain 2,4-D (e.g. Weedar 64 @ 2 pts/A), 2,4-D and Banvel (e.g. Weedmaster @ 2 pt/A) or metsulfuron (e.g. Escort @ 0.5 oz/A) are very effective and affordable. Glyphosate is also effective on hill mustard, but will injure all other vegetation present including grasses. For this reason the previously mentioned herbicides are recommended as they will not kill established grasses. Grasses have been shown to be competitive against hill mustard. Due to the large seedbank any management practices should include the establishment of desirable plants that will allow for selective management of this plant for several years.

inside to see if any of the galls contain a rather uncommon genus of prairie-restricted stem gall wasps that only live on Silphiums. Rosinweed and cup plant each support a different species, and the cup plant species is very rare. The best time to collect the galls is in late fall or early spring (prior to April 15). If you find galls in Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota or northwest Illinois, please contact me, Rich Henderson, WI DNR Science Services, at 608-221-6347 or richard.henderson@wisconsin.gov. Thank you for the help.



*Silphium*. Photo by Rich Henderson

## References

Dietz, H. 2002. Plant invasion patches – reconstruction pattern and process by means of herbchronology. *Biological Invasion* 4: 211-222.

Dietz, H., T. Steinlein, P., Winterhalter, and I. Ullmann. 1996. Role of allelopathy as a possible factor associated with the rising dominance of *Bunias orientalis* L. (Brassicaceae) in some native plant assemblages. *J. Chem. Ecology*. 22: 1797-1811.

Steinlein, T., Dietz, H., and I Ullmann. 1996. Growth patterns of the alien perennial *Bunias orientalis* L. (Brassicaceae) underlying its rising dominance in some native plant assemblages. *Vegatio* 125: 73-82

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stem Galls on Silphiums?

By Rich Henderson

Please be on the lookout for golf ball-sized galls on the stems of rosinweed and cup plant (see photo). If you find any, please let me know. I wish to rear out what is

## TPE 2009 Banquet and IPAW Conference

*Save the date! Feb 21, 2009*

The Prairie Enthusiasts and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) are planning a joint conference to be held in Madison on February 21, 2009. The theme: “Invasive Plants of Grasslands: Identification, Monitoring and Control.” The TPE Annual Banquet will be held that evening at the same venue. We look forward to sharing wisdom, food, stories and memberships with our partners at IPAW! Watch this newsletter, the TPE website, and the IPAW website ([www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)) for more information. Contact Amy Staffen to assist in planning the conference ([tpeAstaffen@tds.net](mailto:tpeAstaffen@tds.net) or 608-332-0875) and Carol Winge to assist in planning the banquet ([carolwinge@yahoo.com](mailto:carolwinge@yahoo.com)).

## Prairie Remnant Data and Data-Entry Assistance Wanted

We need information about the prairie remnants regionwide for the TPE Prairie Remnant database. Please send any remnant inventory data to John Harrington via the post or email. John also needs additional help entering the data. Please contact John if you have time, computer access, and the desire to become more involved.

John Harrington  
25 Agricultural Hall  
1450 Linden Dr.  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, WI 53706

jaharrin@wisc.edu

## New NIPES Website

TPE has a new website at [www.nipes.org](http://www.nipes.org). The site is designed for TPE members. It provides users with a library, gallery, event calendar, a newsroom, a forum for discussions and polls, and a virtual office for the NIPE Board of Directors. An interactive map room is in the works.

Various kinds of users can register on NIPES:

**Readers** can access content, add comments, vote in polls, and write their own blog,

**Authors** can also add content using a high-level editor which works through a normal browser,

**Stewards** can also record and maintain information about the sites they manage,

**Editors** can also rearrange and update content, and

**Publishers** can manage the site software, users, and databases.

Files (texts, maps, spreadsheets, images,...) can be uploaded and attached to most types of content. Again, no special software is required.

All Prairie Enthusiasts may register on the website. We look forward to some interesting TPE-wide projects. For example, a group of authors could collaborate on the next version of the TPE Prairie Primer—online. Someone could write a blog on prairie insects, or prescribed burns, or TPE board happenings.

To request an account, or send suggestions on how the site should be used, go to [www.nipes.org](http://www.nipes.org) and click on “Contact Us.”

If you have material you wish to share, you can email it to [info@nipes.org](mailto:info@nipes.org) and we’ll put it online for you.

## Reminders Sent Via Email

Many notices for field trips and meetings are sent out via email. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send your email address to [TPE@TDS.net](mailto:TPE@TDS.net). Also, let us know if you’d like to receive a notification for the Prairie Promoter when it’s posted online instead of receiving a hard copy of it in the mail.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for prairies.

## TPE Merchandise Available on Website

Now you can order all of your TPE merchandise in one convenient location. Parsnip Predator and No Mow signs, as well as TPE hats, tote bags, and notepads are now available on the TPE website.

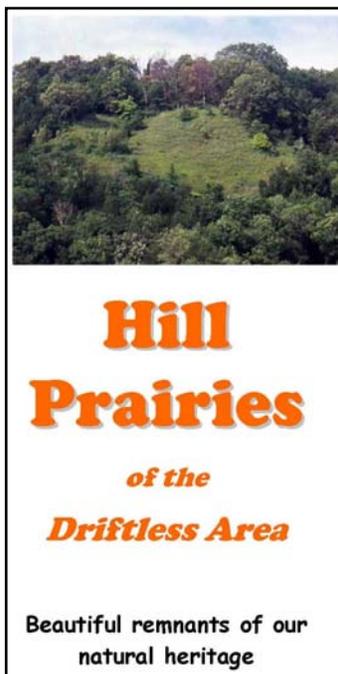
[www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org/Merchandise.htm](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org/Merchandise.htm)

All proceeds will still go to the originating chapter, but now you can order any item using a single order form and payment. Some of these items previously were available only at selected TPE events.

## COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Please check chapter newsletter for announcements.

## Hill Prairie Education Materials Available



Have you ever talked to a landowner about a hill prairie (sometimes called a goat or bluff prairie) on their property? Were you not sure if your conversation left a lasting impression on the landowner? The Coulee Region Chapter has produced a brochure that covers very basic information about hill prairies. The brochure can be left with landowners as a future reference and may lead to the protection or management of a disappearing remnant.

We first unveiled the brochures and a Hill Prairie poster at the 2008 TPE conference. The brochures and the large sized poster (4' x 6'), along with a smaller sized version of the poster (11" x 17"), will soon be available to all TPE members. We also hope to get the brochures in the hands of resource professionals that work with landowners. If you know of folks in the NRCS, DNR, or county conservation offices that are willing to provide these informational brochures to landowners, please request copies.

You can view the materials (and download a pdf version) on the TPE website at <http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/chapter/coulee/goatprairie.htm>. We will be doing a large volume printing, so each chapter can receive a supply of the brochures for their use upon request. The large poster is also available for display at events, and a limited supply of the smaller posters will soon be available. Contact Jim Rogala by email at [therogues@charter.net](mailto:therogues@charter.net) or by phone at (608) 786-1855 for more information.

## EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER

### Board Meetings

**Thursday, September 11**, 6:45 p.m. at Tom and Kathie Brock's home at 1227 Dartmouth Road, Madison (Shorewood Hills).. All members are welcome.

**Tuesday, November 11**, 6:45 p.m. at the Middleton Public Library, 7425 Hubbard Avenue. All members are welcome.

### Help Needed Collecting and Cleaning Seed

Help is needed this fall to both collect and clean seed at Underwood & Schurch-Thomson Prairies and nearby sites south of Blue Mounds and at Rettenmund Black Earth Prairie. If you wish to be on the contact lists to help with these activities, please contact Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)).

### Fall Work Party Plans

This fall, the Empire-Sauk Chapter will continue its prairie-remnant-restoration efforts. Volunteers are needed on a dozen sites to clear trees and brush. We have several

grants to help with the work, but these grants require match of in-kind volunteer time to earn the grant money. For every hour of volunteer time you put in, we receive several hours of paid contract labor. This fall and winter, we will work at the Underwood, Shea, A to Z and Schurch-Thomson Prairies south of Blue Mounds; Ripp Prairies north of Waunakee; Mazomanie Bluff; Schluckebier Prairie west of Prairie du Sac; Rettenmund Black Earth Prairie; Walking Iron County Park near Mazomanie; Savanna Hill north of Cross Plains; Kalscheur Savanna south of Hollandale and Smith Drumlin Prairies near Cambridge. Be on the lookout for fliers, e-mails and other notifications of work parties. Bring friends. Fall/winter work parties are rather fun with refreshments (such as homemade cookies) and crisp weather, and are a good source of outdoor winter exercise. You will leave with a sense of accomplishment after clearing trees and brush.

If you wish to help with work on these sites, and you are uncertain as to whether or not you are on the e-mail or phone notification lists, please contact Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)).

### Coordinators Needed for Seed Collecting, Cleaning and Planting

In our efforts to recover degraded remnants and expand critical habitat for many rare and endangered plants and animals, the Empire-Sauk Chapter has a pressing need to plant prairie and savanna seed on hundreds of acres over the next several years. Unfortunately, our efforts in seed collecting and planting are starting to slip and may be reduced to a trickle unless people take the lead and get things moving. We need one or two people to coordinate our seed collecting and processing program and get it running in earnest. We need an overall coordinator of seed collecting as well as local leaders focused on specific sites. We also need an overall coordinator of seed cleaning and storage. A year from now, we hope to have a great seed cleaning, processing and storage facility fully up and running at the Schurch-Thomson barn south of Blue Mounds. It is already in partial use this fall. If you are interested in any of these leadership roles, please contact Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)).

### Stewardship Committee Forming for Ripp and Koltes Prairies

If you want to serve on a TPE land stewardship committee that will address the Ripp and Koltes prairies

located near Waunakee, contact Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net). Jim and Rumi O'Brien have volunteered to be site stewards for the Koltos Prairie remnants and Ted Cochrane has volunteered to be the site steward for the three Ripp Prairie remnants. The chair and full composition of the committee have yet to be decided.

These sites support some exceptionally high-quality original prairie deserve TPE's attention. Denny Connor, who is the site steward for Mazomanie Bluff, has filled in as steward for the Waunakee sites for the past two years until other volunteers could be found to take over. Thank you to Denny for the help and to Ted and the O'Briens for stepping forward as stewards.

### **Are You Mechanically Inclined?**

Empire-Sauk Chapter needs a volunteer or two to oversee the maintenance and repair of field equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack herbicide sprayers, hand tools, brush-cutters, chainsaws, mowers, propane torches, fire-pump units and seeders. There are plans to develop a workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn as this is where most equipment will likely be stored when not in active use. However, maintenance work may be done at other locations. If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

### **Chapter Picnic & Annual Meeting**

About 20 people participated in the Empire-Sauk Chapter's picnic and annual meeting of the membership, held on July 22. It was a lovely evening, and the bluff-top shelter provided by the Swamplovers, Jerry Goth and Lee Swanson, was a perfect location. We are most grateful to them for hosting our meeting among their great savanna and prairie restorations near Cross Plains. Kathy Henderson was unanimously voted in as the new chapter treasurer. As Rich Henderson (chapter president) is no longer serving as an officer of TPE central, he will resume the position of central board member representing the Empire-Sauk Chapter, in accordance with our chapter rules. Rich shared some highlights from the chapter's many impressive accomplishments over the past year including the purchase of six preserves totaling 662 acres in Dane, Sauk and Iowa counties and three conservation easements covering 230 acres in Dane and Iowa counties. The membership discussed the chapter's and TPE's future direction including the need to engage more people in our work. After the meeting and meal, Jerry and Lee gave a walking tour of some of their impressive restoration work.

Their 500-acre Swamplovers site is now protected by a conservation easement held by the Ice Age Trail Foundation and Dane County. A great time was had by all!

### **Barn Fund Continues to Grow**

By Rich Henderson

Max and Shelley Lagally recently donated \$1,000 to fund interior renovation work on the barn at Schurch-Thomson Prairie. The fund now totals \$3,500; more than one-third of our \$10,000 goal. Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, State Bank of Cross Plains, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and Denny & Nancy Connor have also made donations. Thank you to all contributors.

Volunteers will use supplies and materials purchased with this money to make the interior of the barn usable for meetings, workshops, education events, work crew (intern) headquarters, seed cleaning and storage, equipment storage, repair, and maintenance, and storage of land management supplies. Most of the funds will purchase of lighting, electrical and carpentry supplies and materials.

Please send donations, along with a note that it is for barn renovation, to:

TPE  
c/o Rich Henderson  
2845 Timber Lane  
Verona, WI 53593

Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque inside the barn.

<b>NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER</b>
-----------------------------------

No information submitted

<b>PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER</b>
------------------------------

No information submitted

<b>PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER</b>
------------------------------

No information submitted

## ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER



*Photo by Edward Pembleton*

### Chapter Meeting

**October 16 (Thurs)**, Belwin, 1553 Stagecoach Trail South, Afton, MN

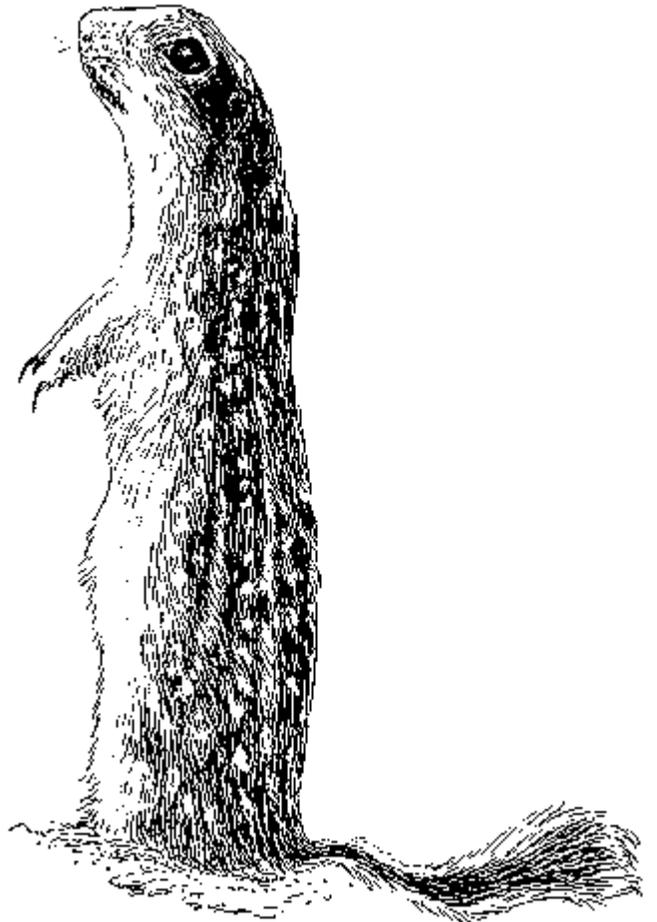
Join us as we recap 2008 and plan 2009 for our chapter:

- \*Review 2008 field trips
- \*Project updates on Foster Cemetery, Alexander Prairie, Blueberry Hill, and Rocky Branch
- \*Commitment to winter work parties
- \*Burn training status and planning
- \*Identify properties that need to be burned
- \*Identify speakers for winter meetings
- \*Field trip ideas for 2009
- \*Prairie restoration workshop planning

Questions? Contact Evanne Hunt at 715-381-1291 or [eahunt@pressenter.com](mailto:eahunt@pressenter.com).

## SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No information submitted



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined since July 1, 2008.

Pat Ament, Brooklyn Park, MN  
Peter Bazeli, New York, NY  
Carol Fleishauer, Baraboo, WI  
Margaret Guth, La Crosse, WI  
Mary Hesser, Wautoma, WI  
George Howe, La Crescent, MN  
Rachel Jabaily, Middleton, WI

Marilyn Klinkner, Galesville, WI  
Jan Lavacek and Carole Sullivan, Galena, IL  
Linda Lutes, Beaver Dam, WI  
Linda Lynch, Ridgeway, WI  
James and Marge Marnowski, Galena, IL  
Teresa Wolfe, Houlton, WI

## THANK YOU, DONORS!

We thank everyone who made a donation to TPE this summer (May 24-Aug. 14). These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

### *Under \$100*

Phil & Kathy Aaker  
Andrea Benco  
George and Betty Hamilton (*Peterson wedding gift*)  
Evanne Hunt (*in memory of Shirley Downs*)

David, Mary and  
Jason Ludwigson  
Linda Lynch  
Troy Meacham  
Tim Nixon  
Joel Petersen (*wedding gift*)  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

Sue Steinmann and  
Bill Weege  
Paul and Judith Swenson (*in memory of Jean Ellarson*)  
Glenn Teschendorf and  
Mary Anne Derheimer

### *\$100 - \$499*

Vance Baker  
George Maze  
Gladys Petersen (*Peterson wedding gift*)

### *\$500 - \$1000*

Richard and Victoria Oberle  
Olive and John Thomson

### *\$1000 - \$5000*

Endres Manufacturing Co.  
Gold-N-Oaks Dairy  
Jan Kettle

### *Over \$20,000*

Schurch Thomson Prairie Trust

## BUMP-UP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who BUMPED UP their membership to a higher level during this same period!

**to Family**

Andrea Benco  
Jean Stramel

**to Shooting Star**

Phil & Kathy Aaker  
Craig and Amy Annen  
Ed & Lois Brick  
David Cordray and Debra Noell  
James & Beverly Holler  
Dorothy Schulz

**to Blazing Star**

Bonnie & Neil Maffitt  
Ron Panzer

**to Compass Plant**

George & Carmeen Johnston

**to Bur Oak Benefactor**

Jack Kusmaul



*Hill mustard plant. Photo by Mark Renz.*

**Complete the following form to join The Prairie Enthusiasts.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Select a Membership Level:

\$15 Student     \$25 Individual     \$40 Family

\$100 Shooting Star     \$200 Blazing Star     \$500 Compass Plant

\$1,000 Monarch     \$5000 Bur Oak Benefactor

To become a member of your local chapter, list your county: \_\_\_\_\_  
otherwise, you will be designated a Member-at-Large.

Please indicate your areas of interest:

- Exhibits and booths (staffing)
- Field trips (organizing or leading)
- Fundraising
- Plant and animal inventories
- Contacting landowners
- Chapter or board leadership
- Management (burns, brush clearing, weed control, mowing, prairie nursery)
- Newsletter
- Seed collecting and planting
- Special events (banquet, picnic, conference)
- Technical support
- Website
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print this form and mail it, with your check, to

The Prairie Enthusiasts  
P.O. Box 1148  
Madison, WI 53701

***Thank you!***

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS

**PO BOX 1148  
MADISON WI 53701  
www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org**

**Address service requested**

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Dodgeville, WI Permit No. 133
--

*Please look at your address label.*

*Your membership renewal date can now be found above your address.*

*If your membership has expired, tear off this back page, note changes below, and send in your check today!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

**\$15 Student, \$25 Individual, \$40 Family,  
\$100 Shooting Star, \$200 Blazing Star, \$500 Compass Plant,  
\$1,000 Monarch, \$5,000 Bur Oak Benefactor**

Please send form and check to:

**The Prairie Enthusiasts, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701-1148**