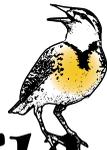




# The Prairie Enthusiasts



## Connect with Us!

Visit our website to learn more about the organization and our local chapters, upcoming educational events, volunteer opportunities, how to join TPE and other ways to connect. To get in touch with our staff, please call us or email us at [tpe@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](mailto:tpe@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org).



110 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 824  
Viroqua, WI 54665  
(608) 638-1873

## Our Mission

We seek to ensure the perpetuation and recovery of prairie, oak savanna, and other associated ecosystems of the Upper Midwest through protection, management, restoration, and education. In doing so, we strive to work openly and cooperatively with private landowners and other private and public conservation groups.

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

Photo credits: Jeff & Patty Straub, Jonah Westrich, Kathy Henderson, Nick Faessler, Gayle Edlin, Joshua Mayer, Ray Goehring, Evanne Hunt, Diane Hills and Jeff Miller.



Wide open prairies and oak savannas once covered the landscape of the Upper Midwest. Today only a tiny fraction remains of these fire-dependent ecosystems, harboring many specialized and endangered plants and animals in some of the rarest habitats on Earth. Our community of volunteers, landowners and conservation professionals works to protect and manage these complex, beautiful natural areas and to help others learn about their importance.

Come with us and experience  
**Grassroots Conservation  
in Action**

## Our Roots Go Deep

Beginning as small, local preservation groups in the mid-1970's, The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1987. Since then we have grown to 11 local chapters with over 1,500 members.



## Manage

Our stewardship of the lands we protect includes restoration and management by large numbers of volunteers. This hands-on effort serves not only to rebuild healthy ecosystems on these sites but also to help our community come to a deeper understanding of and connection with the natural world.



## Learn

Helping people of all ages to discover and learn about these natural treasures, developing and promoting sound restoration methods and advancing scientific understanding are all key parts of our mission.



## Protect

We work to locate remaining native prairie and oak savanna sites and to ensure their long-term preservation through land purchases, conservation easements and other approaches with landowners, government agencies and other organizations. TPE was proud to be named as the 2013 Land Trust of the Year by Gathering Waters, the alliance of Wisconsin land trusts.

Whether you are young or old, experienced or a beginner, you can become involved in caring for the land in many different ways with The Prairie Enthusiasts.



## Work with Us

The many volunteers of TPE are organized as local chapters, engaged in a wide variety of outdoor & indoor activities throughout the year:

- **Prescribed burning**
- **Invasive plant & brush control**
- **Seed collection, processing & planting**
- **Biological monitoring of protected sites**
- **“Citizen science” research projects**
- **Educational & outreach programs**



## Preserve the Land We Love

TPE helps to preserve our natural heritage for future generations through conservation easements, purchase or donation of land to the organization. TPE currently owns over 1,300 acres of preserves, many designated as State Natural Areas, and holds easements on over 1,000 acres of private land. We also maintain endowments for legal defense, site monitoring & land management. Many chapters organize volunteer work parties for landowners with remnant & restored sites, and can often provide other help.



## Learn with Us

We offer many ways to experience the wonder and beauty of these natural landscapes, to study their ecology, plants, insects & birds, and to share tips on practical management. Field trip events, led by naturalists & land managers, are held from spring through fall. Many chapters host workshops and presentations, as well as annual “Prairie Days” events for the whole family.



## We Invite You to Join Us

By joining The Prairie Enthusiasts you help to support our work in managing, protecting and learning about prairies and oak savannas. You will receive our quarterly newsletter & access to members-only resources on our website.

Choose the membership level that is right for you. Membership begins the date you join and continues for 12 months.

- \$25+ *Little Bluestem*
- \$50+ *Big Bluestem*
- \$100+ *Shooting Star*
- \$250+ *Blazing Star*
- \$500+ *Monarch*
- \$1000+ *Compass Club*

You may also wish to make a tax-deductible donation to support TPE. Join or donate by sending in the form or online at our website:

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about the following:

- Field trips & other educational events*
- Opportunities for volunteering*
- Support for prairie landowners*

**Thank You!**