Bring a friend and join us for a naturalist led walk!
Check with contact person for changes prior to event.
Sign up for weekly email of local TPE events via EmpireSauk@charter.net and receive notices of newly added field trips.

**May 10** (Sunday morning)  **Parrish Oak Savanna and Pleasure Valley Conservancies**  Dane Co., WI

Looking for a Mother’s Day outing? Come explore TPE’s 30-acre Parrish Oak Savanna and 200+ acre Pleasure Valley Conservancy. Start by hiking to the top of Parrish Oak Savanna for impressive views of Brigham and Blue Mounds. You’ll see diverse savanna and woodland flora with 240 native plant species. Spiderwort, frostweed, alumroot, and roses should be in bloom. Savanna birds, such as Red-headed Woodpeckers, bluebirds, and many others, should be active, so bring binoculars. Then hike down through oak woodland to a restored sedge meadow. The woods should be alive with migrating songbirds, especially warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers and grosbeaks.

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM  **Leaders:** Rich Henderson, (608-845-7065) & Pat Trochlell (608-767-3111)

**Directions:** Take USH 18/151 west from Madison to 5 miles west of Mt. Horeb. Turn right at Cave of the Mounds Rd. Go ¼ mile and turn right on CTH ID then immediately turn left on to CTH F and continue past Cave of the Mounds. Turn right toward Brigham Co. Park and continue 2 miles on CTH F past the park. Turn left on Moyer Rd. After ¼ mile on Moyer park along the road, at least 3 ft off pavement, at the preserve.

**May 23** (Saturday afternoon)  **Smith-Reiner Prairie**  Jefferson Co., WI

Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie is composed of two distinct land formations resplendent with remnant prairie flowers and grasses. The drumlins are connected by a large planted prairie now showing well in its seventh year of growth. Expect the hillsides to be blue with Bird’s Foot Violet, as well as other violets, along with both Fringed and Hoary Puccoon, Shooting stars, Blue-eyed Grass, Prairie Smoke and maybe even a few late blooming Pasque Flowers. Pack your family in the car to come and get your spring prairie fix at Smith-Reiner.

**Time:** 1-3 PM  **Trip Leader:** Gary Birch (608) 873-8837, Cell (608 332-8837)

**Directions:** From the intersection of Highway 12/18 and Highway 73 (two miles west of Cambridge, WI) go south on Highway 73 for 1.5 miles, then east on County Highway PQ for 1 mile, then south on Clearview Road for 0.5 mile. Park in the small parking lot or off of Clearview Road and walk west .25 miles on an old farm lane into the natural area.
May 27 (Wednesday)  **Flowers, Birds, & Bees at Schurch-Thomson Prairie**  Iowa Co., WI

Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies. If our timing is good, there will be large displays of shooting star, cream wild indigo, and many other late-spring wildflowers along with bumblebees of several species active in collecting pollen and nectar. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 193-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 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, long pants, sturdy shoes, and be prepared for a long hike.

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 PM  **Trip Leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

**Directions:** Address is 8624 Reilly Road, Barneveld. 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 30 (Saturday afternoon)  **Swenson Hill Prairies**  Arena, Iowa Co., WI

The Prairie Enthusiasts acquired Swenson Hill Prairie in 2018. The main prairie is a spectacular large bluff noted for its steepness and lack of exotic species (well, some) that should have a first-class show of prairie spring ephemerals in bloom. During this field trip, we may visit the smaller of the two prairies TPE now owns as part of this project, or the nearby Drachenberg Prairie.

Call Scott for directions, meeting location or to arrange travel from the Madison area.

Bringing extra water even if the day is not hot.

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 PM  **Trip Leader:** Scott Sauer (608-273-0904 (h) or 608-772-3539 (c))

**Directions:** If you’re coming from the east, meet at the Arena Cheese Factory in Arena on Highway 14 at a little before 1:00 p.m. We’ll drive to the site from there.

June 13 (Saturday morning)  **Moely Prairie**  Sauk County, WI

Don’t miss the opportunity for a guided tour of this 23-acre, dry prairie that is nestled in the center of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Thanks to a 2015 conservation easement presented to The Prairie Enthusiasts, this jewel is being reverse evolved into its once grassland habitat much as it was prior to the 1800’s. This lovely site features thousands of Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*) with their wispy, pinkish flowers contrasting brilliantly with early blooming puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens* and *L.caroliniense*).

**Time:** 9:00 AM to Noon   **Trip leaders:** Denny Connor (608-798-4195) or Paul Anderson (608-712-9552)

**Directions:** Meet at the end of Alban Lane in Prairie du Sac. This is in the Westwynde Subdivision south of County Highway PF.
June 20 (Saturday morning)  Pleasant Valley Conservancy  Dane County, WI

Pleasant Valley Conservancy is a beautiful, 143 acre State Natural Area situated in the Driftless Area with steep goat prairies, oak savanna and a large, high quality marsh. We hope to see beautiful Baltimore Checkerspot and other wetland butterflies nectaring on wonderful native plants. If you would like, bring along a bag lunch for after the trip; beverages and dessert will be provided. Long pants, a hat, water and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars -- the close focusing kind are better (We have a few extra binoculars). This is a joint trip of Madison Audubon Society, the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association and The Prairie Enthusiasts.

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon.   Trip leaders: Douglas Buege, Tom & Kathie Brock (608-238-5050)
kmbrock@charter.net

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Hwy 14 and Wis. Hwy 78 in Black Earth (by The Shoebox store), follow Hwy 78 south to the intersection with County Hwy KP. Take County KP west out of town about .5 mile. Then turn south where County Hwy F separates from Hwy KP. Continue on Hwy F for another 3.75 miles. Turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road and drive .75 miles and park at the State Natural Area sign. Google: Pleasant Valley Conservancy

June 21 (Sunday afternoon)  Schurch-Thomson Prairie  Iowa Co., WI

Come for a long leisurely walk through original remnant prairie and prairie plantings. If our timing and the conditions are right, we will see many wildflowers, including prairie lilies, uncommon grassland birds such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow’s sparrows, as well as butterflies and bumblebees (we will have some close-focusing binoculars available). Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and occasional steep slopes. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, long pants, and binoculars.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM.   Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

Directions: Address is 8624 Reilly Road, Barneveld. 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 8 (Wednesday evening)  Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie  Dane County, WI

Join us for a summertime trip to this high-quality prairie remnant. A spectacular display of butterfly milkweed, leadplant and coreopsis should be at its peak on this summer evening. This unique site is a State Natural Area owned by The Prairie Enthusiasts. This trip is co-sponsored by TPE and the Madison Audubon Society.

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.   Trip leaders: Kathie and Tom Brock (608-238-5050) or cell (608-225-8239) on day of trip

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Hwy 14 and Wis. Hwy 78 in Black Earth (by The Shoebox store), follow Hwy 78 south to the intersection with County Hwy KP. Take County KP west out of town about .5 mile. Then turn south where County Hwy F separates from Hwy KP. Take your first right onto Fesenfeld Road and go about .1 mile to the Prairie entrance. Park on the right (north) side of Fesenfeld Road. Google: Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie

Brought to you by
the volunteers
of the Empire Sauk Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts
Preserves Managed by Empire-Sauk Chapter

Grassroots Conservation in Action

www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org