

Events Calendar Spring 2009

April 11: The Nature Conservancy work party, 9:00 AM to Noon

Volunteer activities will include cutting invasive buckthorn and weedy trees like box elder and burning brush piles. Dress appropriately for outdoor, grubby work. Bring work gloves and please do not wear synthetic clothing (polyester, fleece, etc) as it will melt or easily get burn holes in it from embers. Eye protection is always a good idea as well. Contact Jim Lesniak: 608-238-5187. *Directions: About 0.5 miles east of Barneveld on Hwy 18/151, go south on County Highway K for about 2 miles. Meet in the parking area on the right, marked by a sign.*

April 15: Fascinating Frogs Field Trip, 7:00 PM

Join UW-Madison researchers Chris Schillaci and Jeremiah Yahn to learn about frog identification, their biology, and a UW research project to monitor them. The location is a stream and wetland habitat restoration project on a Nature Conservancy preserve. Be prepared for possible muddy conditions and darkness; bring a headlamp or flashlight. In case of poor weather, an alternate date has been set for April 22. Registration is preferred but not required. Contact Katie Abbott (coordinator for the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area) for more information, to register, or to check for cancellation: (608)935-2791 x134 or (608)341-6493 (cell). *Directions: Meet at The Nature Conservancy parking lot south of Barneveld: from 18/151 take County Road K south for about 2 miles; the lot will be on your right, marked by a sign.*

May 16: Native Plant Sale, 8:00 AM- 1:00 PM

A native plant sale will be held at the Liberty Park Shelter in Mount Horeb. The proceeds of the plant sale will benefit The Blue Mounds Area Project and the Argyle Land Ethic Academy. Nearly 40 different species of prairie, wetland, savanna, and woodland wildflowers and grasses will be available for purchase. A species list and prices will be available online soon at www.bluemounds.org. *Directions: From Madison, off of Hwy 18/151, take the Hwy ID exit into Mount Horeb. Turn left (south) onto Cox Drive, just past Ming's Garden Chinese Restaurant.*

May 23: Field trip: Birds & Flowers of Underwood & Schurch-Thomson Prairies, 8:00 to 11:30 AM

Come see Schurch-Thomson Prairie, which is part of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve, and the adjacent Underwood Prairie which is privately owned by the Underwood family. These are dry and dry-mesic prairie remnants in a 400-acre sea of CRP grassland rich with grassland birds. Shooting stars (massive displays) and many other spring flowers will be in bloom. Grassland birds, such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow's sparrows, should be at peek activity. Bring binoculars and be prepared for a long hike (hat, sun screen, & water). Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net). *Directions: 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 300 yards. Park along Reilly Road. (Note: Be sure to stay on F. A half mile down F from 18-151, F turns to the right & the straight ahead road becomes County Z.

May 27: Field trip: Schurch-Thomson & Underwood Prairies, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Come hike into the secluded valley of the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies for an evening of exploring dry and drymesic prairie remnants, progress being made to recover degraded and overgrown prairie sod, and efforts at inter-seeding prairie vegetation into smooth brome grass sod. Spectacular displays of shooting stars should be in the offering. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre unit of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve and is adjacent to the privately owned Underwood Prairie. TPE has a management agreement to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres of the Underwood family land. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat. So bring binoculars, and be prepared for a long hike (hat, sun screen, & water). Trip leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net). *Directions: 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 the end of the road. We will be meeting by 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: Grassland birding hike, 9:00 AM

Join bird expert Dave Sample to find rare grassland birds by sight and sound, while learning interesting facts about them. Field trip will last 1.5 to 2 hours; wear long pants, sturdy footwear, and bring binoculars. Meet at The Nature Conservancy's Thomson Memorial Prairie. *Directions: From the intersection of F and US Hwy 18/151 near Blue Mounds, take F south for 2 miles to the small designated parking area for the TNC preserve (on the right, west side, of the road). (Caution: at about 1 mile south from 18/151, F turns to the right while Z goes straight).*

June 13: The Nature Conservancy work party, 9:00 AM to Noon

Volunteer activities will include girdling an aspen clone on the east side of the valley. Dress appropriately for outdoor, grubby work. Contact Jim Lesniak: 608-238-5187. Meet at the parking lot along Hwy K. *Directions: About 0.5 miles east of Barneveld on Hwy 18/151, go south on County Highway K for about 2 miles. Meet in the parking area on the right, marked by a sign.*

June 20: Field trip: Grassland birding in western Dane and eastern Iowa counties

Learn to identify grassland birds while learning about their ecology and habitat needs. Led by Dave Sample and Steve Richter. More information to come; check www.madisonaudubon.org/audubon/html/tips.htm for details.

July 1: Field trip: Schurch-Thomson and Underwood Prairies, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Come see displays of leadplant, *Coreopsis*, and pale purple coneflower, along with regal fritillaries and other prairie butterflies. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre unit of TPE's 530-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve and is adjacent to the privately owned Underwood Prairie. TPE has a management agreement to manage and restore prairie on approximately 20 acres of the Underwood family land. The hike will include extensive grassland bird habitat along with prairie. So bring binoculars, and be prepared for a long hike. Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065). *Directions: 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 the end of the road. We will be meeting by 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 11: Prairie Walk & Talk at Folklore Village, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

The prairie is a cornucopia of creatures that delight, amaze and nurture our minds, bodies and souls. Learn to identify common (and uncommon) prairie plants, track down busy pollinators and delve into what prairie plants have provided through time. Come prepared to touch, smell, feel and listen to the prairie around you! This a Folklore Village trip in partnership with the Blue Mounds Area Project. Rain Date Sunday, July 12. Call (608-924-4000) email staff@folklorevillage.org or visit www.folklorevillage.org for more information. Fee: \$5 General, \$2 Children. Trip Leader: Ecologist Cindy Ramseyer. *Directions: Meet at Folklore Village, 3210 County BB, Dodgeville.*

July 18: Field trip: Flowers and Butterflies of Schurch-Thomson Prairie, 9:00 AM to Noon

Come visit TPE's Schurch-Thomson Prairie, and the adjacent privately owned Underwood Prairie. The latter is closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to see it up close. These and adjacent properties form a complex of remnant prairie and CRP grasslands that are rich with grassland birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Summer flowers will be in bloom, and we hope to see the rare Regal Fritillary and many other butterflies. Last year we found four species of fritillaries. Be prepared for a long hike and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better). We will have a few extra binoculars. This is a joint trip of TPE, Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, and Madison Audubon Society. Trip Leader: Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net) *Directions: From Hwy 151 at Blue Mounds take F south (note: F makes a right angle turn). After 5 miles turn right onto Reilly Road. Go to the end and park by the barn.*