Empire-Sauk Chapter Field Trips for spring & early summer 2022.

Be sure to contact trip leaders the evening before to confirm the event is still on.

**May 15** (Sunday afternoon) **Powell Prairie** Iowa Co., WI  
This 10-acre prairie remnant is owned by Kent Powell, protected by a conservation easement held by Driftless Area Land Conservancy, and managed by TPE Empire-Sauk Chapter. It is a diverse example of original prairie on a small bluff system which has a layer of dolomite bedrock atop St. Peters sandstone. Thus, it has acid dry rocky sand prairie on the slopes and dry-mesic, high-pH prairie on top. Over 100 prairie species have been found on the site, including many now rare and uncommon species such as valerian, prairie bushclover, Hill’s thistle, prairie turnip, fame flower, and Seneca snakeroot.  
*Time:* 10:00 to Noon.  
*Trip leader:* Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)  
*Directions:* From the intersection of US Hwy 18-151 and County K (east of Barneveld), take K 3 miles south to Prairie Grove Road.  
Turn left (east) onto Prairie Grove Road, and proceed 0.2 mi.  
Pull into parking area on right, or park along road right-of-way at least 3 ft off pavement.

**May 19** (Thursday evening) **Kalscheur Oak Savanna** Iowa County, WI  
Come for a spring evening hike to see the early-season flowers of this 19-acre preserve. This site was protected by TPE in 1994 and is currently managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. It is topographically diverse with a south-facing aspect and is covered by scattered oak trees and prairie openings. At the base of the slope, springs and ground-water seeps flow into a stream-side wetland complex. Past grazing left the site in rough shape, but with tree/brush removal, periodic fire, and some inter-seeding of lost prairie and savanna species, recovery is coming along nicely. So far, 246 native plant species have been identified on site. Shooting star, cream Baptisia, columbine, wood-betony, bird’s-foot & prairie violets, yellow star-grass, and other early wildflowers should be in bloom. Be prepared for off trail hiking.  
*Time:* 6:00 to 8:00 PM.  
*Trip leaders:* Rich Henderson (tpe.rhenderson@tds.net or 608-845-7065)  
*Directions:* From the Village of Hollandale in southeastern Iowa Co, take County Road K south from Hwy 39 for 2.44 miles.  
Look for a small TPE sign on the left (northeast) side of the road. Note: the preserve entrance is ½ mi past the bridge over Olson Creek on County K. Parking is along the road, be sure to park at least 3 ft off pavement.  
We will be hiking in from there.

**May 21** (Saturday morning) **Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie** Dane Co., WI  
This 40-acre site is a designated State Natural Area owned by TPE and managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. It has two large remnants of original prairie on drumlin hills ridges, surrounded by planted prairie. Spring bloomers will include Wood Betony, Shooting Stars, Prairie Smoke, Porcupine Grass, Puccoon, and clouds of Bird’s Foot Violets, with many other pleasant surprises. Drumlins are interesting long hills formed by the passing of the last glacier. They are composed of gravel, sand, and other glacial till debris. Smith-Reiner is home to several rare prairie plants and insects, and grassland birds such as eastern meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows.  
*Time:* 10:00 to Noon.  
*Trip leader:* Gary Birch (608) 332-8837; gbirch@chorus.net  
*Directions:* From the intersection of US Hwy 12 and Hwy 73 (2.5 miles west of Cambridge, WI), take 73 south 1.5 miles to County PQ.  
Turn left (east) onto PQ.  
Proceed 1.0 miles to Clearview Road.  
Take Clearview (right turn) south 0.6 miles.  
Park along the road, but off the shoulder.  
We will be hiking approximately 2 miles total.

**May 22** (Sunday afternoon) **Bluestem Farm** Sauk Co., WI  
We will be looking at plantings and restoration projects at various stages and with different management histories. Shooting stars, wood betony, and other spring flora will be in bloom. See what happens when seed supplies of both shooting stars and betony are nearly unlimited! Both species were mainly planted in fall or winter with broadcast seeder or by hand. Depending on weather we may have spring orchids in bloom, including showy orchis. Be prepared for weather, ticks, etc. Hikes will be from 1/2 to 1 1/2 miles long,
depending on what’s in bloom, where, and stamina of participants.

**Time:** 2:00 to 4:30 PM  
**Trip leader:** Muffy Barrett & Scott Weber, 608-356-0179. Leave message.

**Directions:** Meet at Bluestem Farm, S5920 Lehman Rd, Baraboo. Look for blue mailbox with Bluestem Farm on south side of box. Park by garage. Be aware that many nice species grow along the driveway, particularly on the east side, including our gentians.

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**May 24** (Tuesday evening)  
**Sugar River Oak Savanna**  
Dane Co., WI

This diverse 9-acre oak savanna is a preserve of The Prairie Enthusiasts and managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. Management with frequent fire since 1976 has brought about a very diverse flora of prairie and savanna species with nearly 400 native plant species now present. A wide array of late-spring wildflowers should be in bloom.

**Time:** 6:00 to 7:30 PM  
**Trip leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

**Directions:** From the intersection of CTH M and PD (north of Verona and SW of Madison) take PD west 3.0 miles to Timber Lane, turn right (north) on to Timber Lane and then immediately turn left into a joint driveway. Proceed to the brick house (2845 Timber Lane). Park in mowed lawn (please do not block the neighbor’s driveway).

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**May 26** (Thursday morning)  
**Spring Flowers, Birds, & Bees at Schurch-Thomson Prairie**  
Iowa Co., WI

Come hike into the secluded valley of Schurch-Thomson Prairie. Late-spring wildflowers such as shooting star, cream wild indigo, puccoons, wood betony, and alumroot should be in bloom with queen bumblebees of serval species active in collecting pollen and nectar to establish their colonies. Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 193-acre unit of TPE’s 570-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. 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:** 9:00 AM to Noon  
**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.)

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**June 12** (Sunday afternoon)  
**Butterflies and Flowers of Mounds View Grassland**  
Iowa Co., WI

Come hike into the Schurch-Thomson Prairie and A to Z units of TPE’s Mounds View Grassland to see how the burgeoning Baltimore checkerspot butterfly population is doing. We will see wood lilies and many other flowers and butterflies along the way. Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and bring binoculars for butterfly viewing (the closer they can focus the better).

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
**Leaders:** Rich Henderson (tpe.rhenderson@tds.net or 608-235-4165)

**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.)

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**June 14** (Tuesday)  
**Shea Prairie**  
Iowa Co, WI

Come explore remnants of dry prairie and restorations of wetlands and wet to mesic prairie of the 100-acre Shea Prairie. We will be looking for wood lilies and Baltimore checkerspot butterflies, along with many other late-spring species. This site is a unit of TPE’s 570-acre Mounds View Grassland and has undergone extensive stream and wetland restoration beginning in 2012. Close focusing binoculars are recommended for butterfly viewing. Be prepared for off trail hiking.

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
**Trip Leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065, tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)

**Directions:** Address is 3095 Mounds View Road, Barneveld. From US Highway 18/151, a mile and a half west of Blue Mounds, turn south on Mounds View Road. Proceed on Mounds View for 2.5 miles to where it
joins briefly with Prairie Grove Rd. Stay with Mounds View and go another 0.7 miles. Look for the kiosk and parking lot on the left.

**June 25 (Sat.), [rain date 6/26]**

**Moely Prairie**  Sauk Co., WI  
Moely Prairie is 24-acre preserve, owned by Barbara Moely, it had been part of her family’s farm. It is now protected by a conservation easement held by TPE and managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. This remnant of sand prairie had become badly overrun by tree and brush invasion. Local volunteers have been making fantastic strides in recovering the original prairie. Join them to learn what they have been doing and see what they have accomplished.  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to Noon  
**Contact:** Amy Chamberlin, a50chamberlin@gmail.com  
**Directions:** On west side of Prairie du Sac. Take 21st St south from Prairie St (Co PF) for one block to Fullerton. Turn right on Fullerton. Then turn left onto Billings Ave. Then turn right onto Alban Ln. Go to the end. Parking is along the road.

**July 3**  
**Reviving a Lost Prairie Landscape – Mounds View Grassland**  Iowa Co., WI  
Come for a day of hiking across TPE’s 830-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve. We will see the progress being made in bringing back to life degraded remnant prairies, converting non-native cool-season grass to native prairie, renovating streams, wetlands, and seeps, and planting agricultural fields to prairie. We will be encountering rich displays of early summer prairie flowers such as pale-purple coneflower, wild quinine, white wild indigo, white prairie clover, and others. Along the way we will also have opportunity to observe many uncommon grassland birds such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, upland sandpipers, and Henslow’s sparrows, as well as butterflies and bumblebees. Be prepared for a long hike (some off trail) and occasional steep slopes. Bring a pack lunch (we’ll stop for a picnic along the way), water, hat, sun screen, long pants, and binoculars.  
**Time:** 9:00 AM to 3:30 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 9**  
**Erbe Grassland & Goplin Prairies**  Dane Co., WI  
Come explore the newest addition to Erbe grassland, a 40-acre parcel acquired from Ed and Cheryle Goplin in March of this year. It has both remnant prairie and restorations. If we are fortunate, the endangered regal fritillary butterfly will be in flight. Erbe Grassland is also a great site to experience rare and uncommon grassland birds such as upland sandpipers, bobolinks, meadowlarks, Henslow’s sparrows, grasshopper sparrows, and more, so bring binoculars. Be prepared for a long hike off trail. We recommend long pants, sturdy shoes, a hat, and sunscreen.  
**Difficulty:** Moderate hiking (2 mile plus) over uneven terrain.  
**Time:** 1:00 to 3:30 PM  
**Trip Leader:** Rich Henderson (608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)  
**Directions:** Take US 18-151 west from Madison, at 1.5 miles west of Mt. Horeb, turn left (south) on Erbe Road. Go for 0.7 miles and look for the parking lot and kiosk on right side of the road (across from quarry).