



# SPRINGS

Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Newsletter

## Prairie Chase Run/Walk set for June 24, 2017

By Tom Crozier

The Third Annual “Prairie Chase” Run/Walk FUNdraiser will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2017 in Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

Now in its third year, the “Prairie Chase” 5K/10K Run & 5K Walk will start and finish in Orchid Heights Park, Middleton, WI.

The event has two running competitions that will follow the beautiful, crushed limestone path that circles the Conservancy. The 5K walk will go through the prairie fields in and around Fredericks Hill and will showcase the efforts of the Friends restoration work for the last 22 years!

After the race, refreshments will be served and there will be live music. In

addition, awards will be given to the top men and women for the 5K and 10K run events and a raffle of some great gifts will be offered as well.

### Added Event

This year there will be a short “kids run”



just before the main event. It will be a short race around a soccer field near the shelter where the event begins and ends. Children of all ages are encouraged to join as part of the family entry.

Right now the fees are still reasonable – only \$45 for a family (which includes two t-shirts), \$30 for an individual and \$15 for a student. The fees will increase again on June 1st to \$50, \$35 and \$20 respectively and once again the day before to \$55, \$40 and \$25 so we encourage you to sign up now.

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy would like to thank the City of Middleton and Dane County for allowing us to hold this fun event in the Conservancy and we

*continued on page 3...*

## Friends awarded \$20,000 Bader Grant to Enhance Programming and Experiences for a Diverse Community

By John Daly, Education Committee

*“Whatever the limits we face as we get older, we want to retain our autonomy – the freedom – to be the writers of our own story.”*

~Being Mortal by Atul Gawande

Since 2014, the Education Committee

has been hosting Senior Advisory Council Meetings. The purpose of these quarterly meetings has been to listen to older adults in regards to the role the Pheasant Branch Conservancy plays (or could play) in their daily lives. We

*continued on page 9...*

### SPRING-SUMMER 2017

Presidents Message.....	2
Master Naturalist Training.....	3
Naturalist Notebook.....	4
Tunes on Tuesdays.....	5
Ted Shannon Memorial.....	5
2016 Annual Report.....	6
2016 Annual Report.....	7
Meadowlark.....	8
Kids for the Earth.....	10
Restoration Workdays.....	11
Calendar of Events.....	12

Protect. Restore. Promote.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Friends,

I am very honored to serve the Friends as President of the Board. I am humbled to join with a group of passionate and dedicated people who really care for the special place we have in Pheasant Branch Conservancy. For those of you who don't know me, I spent most of my career working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and my original training was in water resources management. About 4 years ago, my husband, Patrick and I moved to Middleton and now we call the Conservancy our backyard. We are able to enjoy it every day and in every season and we continue to appreciate just what a valuable resource it is. As a board member, for the first two years, I volunteered to serve on the Watershed Committee and I adopted a citizen water quality monitoring station on Pheasant Branch just north of Century Avenue at the first bridge over the Creek. I met great people and enjoyed a deepening connection to the Conservancy. The role of President allows me to continue to expand my

connection to the Conservancy and to the people who work to protect it. I hope many of our members will also consider volunteering with the Friends - helping with "Prairie Chase" and "Tunes on Tuesdays," participating in our Restoration and Management workdays, attending Conservancy Day programs, or serving on a committee. There are many opportunities and the time commitment you choose can be large or small. Know that your efforts will be appreciated.

We are delighted to be able to have our dog, Cider, with us when we hike the Conservancy. When we lived in Madison, dogs were not allowed in any parks except dog parks. As Cider is a part of our family and exercise is as important to him as it is to us, we found we didn't get to enjoy the city parks much. It is a privilege to have our dog by our side, so we rigorously follow the leash law and pick up after him. People often don't realize that dogs off leash do great damage to nesting birds. In addition, they can get into

*continued on page 9...*

## OUR BOARD

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Send Newsletter Ideas to  
[office@pheasantbranch.org](mailto:office@pheasantbranch.org)

Is your Membership Current?  
*The mailing name block on this newsletter includes your membership expiration date*

Please Visit our Website  
[www.pheasantbranch.org](http://www.pheasantbranch.org)

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: DONATE TODAY!

### YES! I want to help protect, restore and promote Pheasant Branch Conservancy!

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

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pay Securely Using This Form or Go Online to [www.pheasantbranch.org/membershipForm.html](http://www.pheasantbranch.org/membershipForm.html)

Pay securely with Visa or Mastercard:

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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level:

*memberships purchased after 9/1 apply to following calendar year*

- \$10 Student
- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family

Please send your membership and payment to:  
**FOPBC**  
P.O. Box 628242  
Middleton, WI 53562-8242

#### Additional Giving Opportunities:

- \$25       \$250
- \$50       \$500
- \$100      \$1,000
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Restoration
- Education
- Watershed
- Development & Marketing
- Special Events (such as "Prairie Chase" Run/Walk)
- Board Member

# FOPBC Offers Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Course in June

By Colleen Robinson, FOPBC Education Coordinator

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the environment and do it in a fun, hands-on, outdoor way? If your answer is YES, then consider registering for the FOPBC Master Naturalist Training being held in Middleton June 15-17, June 23-24, and July 8. The target audience is folks interested in environmental education and/or individuals seeking to help with restoration and management of the natural environment.

What's to learn? The course will look within the Conservancy and other places in the Pheasant Branch Watershed and beyond to explore geologic history, ecology, water and soil resources, and the connections between humans and the landscape. The 40- hour class presents

these concepts by traveling to sites and doing walks and talks with professionals in the field.

during the fall and spring turnover. Travel to the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and hear from experts on crane research and ways to educate the public using this beloved family of endangered birds.

What about water? Compare lakes to streams and wetlands. Sample chemical and biological parameters at Black Earth Creek and discover one of the newest stream invasive species - the New Zealand Mud Snail.



Sneak peek: Learn geology while hiking in Devils Lake State Park and seeing evidence of the remains of the last glacier. What about controlling swimmer's itch by using knowledge of the lake's food chain and past nutrient history? Dick Lathrop will outline his successful program of draining nutrient rich bottom waters

For the prairies, the oaks and so much more, experience restoration work at Pheasant Branch Conservancy and learn about restoration and management at Festge Park, ICF and the Bock Forest. Learn how citizen science is becoming

*continued on page 5...*

## Prairie Chase...

would also like to thank our sponsors ATC, Newcomb Construction, Endurance House and Fontana Sports.

### Prairie Chase for Wellness

The Friends is also looking for local companies to promote this event to their employees as part of their "wellness" program. Many companies will reimburse or match the registration fee in exchange for participating. If you are interested in promoting this event at your company, please contact Tom Crozier at tom@picturesalon.com and he can provide you with any materials that you may need.

Please register by going to [www.prairiechase.com](http://www.prairiechase.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

*Continued from page 1*







# NATURALIST NOTEBOOK:

## News of Nature in the Conservancy

By Dale Klubertanz,

### A Sense of Timelessness in the Conservancy

As the grey-black billows of smoke rise from Pheasant Branch and fill the open spaces of sky, it signals that a new cycle of life has come to the Conservancy. Drifting over Frederick's Hill and all the communities of plants inside its panoramic view, the fire's arrival has become a foretoken of springtime, even as the pasque flower blooms beneath the breezy April hillside. It burns below the last clinging leaves of the thick-barked burr oak, still hanging brown and like parchment, not yet offered to the wind. Burning has been an ancient relationship forged over 10,000 years through the workings of lightning and tribal hunting and agricultural practices, now renewed by restoration as a part of our abiding heritage. It has been reclaimed as an annual spring ritual, marking the opening of a yearlong, ever-changing seasonal experience throughout the Conservancy lands.

For those who have come to this recovering wilderness to find refuge and to seek solace from the oft-proclaimed rat race, one of second hands and morning alarms, there is a Conservancy filled with deeply rooted rhythms, cycles, tempos, heartbeats, patterns and paces. In good measure, there is room to reset one's innermost clock, embracing these timeless features of the natural environment. But to fully experience and know all the varied faces and facets of these native plant communities, one is

asked to visit throughout the year during each of the seasons.

Within days of the prescribed burns, green shoots appear everywhere up from the blackened earth. They have been

*"Sometimes the desire to be lost again, as long ago, comes over me like a vapor. With growth into adulthood, responsibilities claimed me, so many heavy coats. I didn't choose them, I don't fault them, but it took time to reject them. Now in the spring I kneel, I put my face into the pockets of violets, the dampness, the freshness, the sense of ever-ness. Something is wrong, I know it, if I don't keep my attention on eternity. May I be the tiniest nail in the house of the universe, tiny but useful. May I stay forever in the stream. May I look down upon the windflower and the bull thistle and the coreopsis with the greatest respect."*

~ Mary Oliver from Upstream

summoned by the warm, flame-heated soil, stimulated by the burnt, powdery recycled nutrients of last year's prairie and encouraged by April rains. Again and for another spring, it is the burgeoning of inspired life in the Conservancy.

Soon, the native plant communities will be covered by a wind-swept promise of summer, giving way to a bursting forth of blooms by mid-June. Woodland trees will have extended their leaves for the sake of shady habitats, busily giving breath to all living things through the help of long sunny days. At the far reaches of autumn, tall grasses will prevail over prairies of yellow-gold. The fall colors accompany hiker's musings as their seasons-long journey approaches winter.

But in spring, as visitors open their wandering souls to the greening of Conservancy lands, winter is surely a far off concern.

The smoky air and perky shoots peaking through the dark soil, signal that the newest of seasons is well on its way. With it brings a "sense of ever-ness".



# Tunes on Tuesdays Returns in 2017

By Colleen Robinson, FOPBC Education Coordinator



Our "Tunes on Tuesdays" series was a smashing success in 2016 and it is back in June 2017 with a few tweaks to make it even better.

Please plan on attending and bring friends and family!

The schedule for "Tunes on Tuesdays" is from 6-8 pm on June 6, 13, 20 and 27. Due to the wonderful support of local musicians in 2016, we are limiting each individual musician or group of musicians to two time slots, either the same day or two different days.

In 2017, "Tunes on Tuesdays" will begin at Orchid Heights Park where parking and bathroom facilities are readily available. Participants will get light exercise by walking through the Pheasant Branch Conservancy to hear acoustic musicians from 6-7

pm and 7-8 pm. The music locations include the Springs, Homestead site, and Fredrick's Hill. There will also be music to serenade you on the way to the Conservancy from Orchid Heights Park.

The idea is to hike the trails and stop periodically to hear acoustic music, compliments of our local musicians. "Tunes on Tuesdays" is our concert in the park; we hope you will hike or walk and listen to our very talented local musicians.



See you in June!

Musicians please register at <http://signup.com/go/2DV71k> or use this QR code.

To honor the service



*Happenstance playing at Tunes on Tuesdays 2016*

learning program aspect of this event, middle and high school choral and music students have priority registration until April 28.

After April 28, other local singers and musicians may sign up for remaining slots.

## Memorial for Ted Shannon

By Pam Shannon

Ted Shannon, longtime friend of the Conservancy, will be honored at a memorial service at 2:00 pm on Saturday, July 15 at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison. Ted died at age 98 on December 11, 2016 at his winter home in Green Valley, Arizona. Along with



his late wife, Dorothy, Ted was an early advocate for creation of the Conservancy. Donations may be made to the FOPBC Ted Shannon Memorial Fund at: FOPBC, P.O. Box 628242, Middleton WI 53562-8242

## Wisconsin Master Naturalist...

*Continued from page 3*

a leading tool in tracking restoration needs, efforts and successes over time. Pursue your interests in a capstone project for education, environmental stewardship, or citizen science. Have fun while learning about nature and the importance of getting outside.

Course fee is \$250. Scholarships up to

\$200 are available as needed.

First class: June 15, Clark Street Community School, 2429 Clark Street, Middleton, 5:30-8:30.

Subsequent classes: Staging ground is Room 600, Kromrey Middle School, 7009 Donna Drive, Middleton.

June 16, 17, 23, 24 - 9:00-5:00

July 8 - 9:00-2:00

Register <https://wimasternaturalist.org/volunteer-course/PheasantBranch2017>

For more information, contact Deb Weitzel at [debraw@chorus.net](mailto:debraw@chorus.net).

# 2016 Annual Report



The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy works through 6 active committees consisting of board and non-board members - Education, Watershed, Restoration and Management, Finance, Development and Marketing, and Governance. We depend on the generosity of our members, for which we are very grateful. Here is a brief report on the committee work of 2016.

## *Education Committee*

1. Secured a \$20,000, 2-year grant from Bader Philanthropies, Inc. for exploring accessibility issues, concerns, and needs for seniors and those with memory challenges.
2. Provided naturalist-led field trips for hundreds of students in grades K-4 and service learning opportunities for 500+ biology students.
3. Completed the FOPBC photo contest with MHS photography classes and announced winners at the annual reception.
4. Launched a new service-learning program for middle and high school choral and music students performing in the Conservancy's "Tunes on Tuesdays" summer concert series.
5. Developed and implemented the first outdoor-based 4K/preschool curriculum in the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District area at 10 sites.
6. Developed the first self-guided Conservancy backpack, linked to Badgerland Council Girl Scout Brownie curriculum.
7. Organized 11 Conservancy Day programs featuring poetry workshops, owl and bee programs, and presentations from the International Crane Foundation.

## *Watershed Committee*

1. Carried out a successful "Leaf Free Streets Pilot Campaign" for City of Middleton in partnership with Dane County and the Clean Lakes Alliance
2. Supported "Salt Wise" Campaign in partnership with Dane County
3. Sampled Pheasant Branch Creek at 3 sites monthly for nutrient analysis
4. Supported "Adaptive Management" effort to reduce phosphorus in the Yahara lakes with Madison Municipal Sewerage District, Dane County and Clean Lakes Alliance
5. Completed maps, design and text for a Pheasant Branch Watershed brochure
6. Participated in Yahara Watershed Network monthly events

## *Restoration and Management Committee*

1. Directed 2900 volunteer hours
2. Coordinated and funded the following services:
  - Spring burn of the hill and prairies by Quercus
  - Coordinator Rob Baller implemented goals, lead activities, supervised volunteers, developed management guide
  - Summer Intern program Prairie Partners -1 day a week for 3 months
  - Wetland restoration by Integrated Restorations LLC
  - Erosion Task force implemented changes to control erosion
  - Partnered with city to construct new viewing deck

## Finance Committee

1. Improved online registration for “Prairie Chase”
2. Transferred endowment funds to the Madison Community Foundation
3. Maintained state and federal reporting requirements
4. Carried out Finance Committee meetings

### Budget Summary

(Budgetted Net Expenses by Committee)

	2015	2016	2017
Admin/General Expense	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,360	\$ 7,407
Development & Marketing	5,783	5,201	10,471
Education	16,395	17,896	17,986
Governance		650	650
Restoration & Management	22,325	23,125	24,290
Watershed	500	365	365
	<u>\$ 50,003</u>	<u>\$ 54,597</u>	<u>\$ 61,169</u>

### Operating Summary

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Prelim. 2016	Proj. 2017
Membership Income	\$ 13,865	\$ 21,490	\$ 16,694	\$ 18,177	\$ 20,250	\$ 20,000
Contributions	28,170	60,908	32,949	68,118	81,067	67,000
Grants Received	26,118	38,650	34,051	41,040	29,422	49,000
Other Income	14,098	11,937	10,883	14,847	15,880	13,000
Total Income	<u>\$ 82,251</u>	<u>\$ 132,985</u>	<u>\$ 94,577</u>	<u>\$ 142,182</u>	<u>\$ 146,619</u>	<u>\$ 149,000</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 82,971</u>	<u>\$ 106,121</u>	<u>\$ 100,289</u>	<u>\$ 104,795</u>	<u>\$ 123,016</u>	<u>\$ 130,000</u>
# of Memberships (Oct 1 to Sept 30)	447	506	494	532	457	500

(446 @ 1/27/17)

### Endowments

(Administered by Madison Community Foundation)

Investment Position as of Dec. 31, 2016

Pulver Education Fund	\$ 51,949
Restoration Fund (est. Dec. 2014)	\$ 34,989

### Reserve Summary

Cash Position as of Dec. 31, 2016	\$102,146
Receivable for Grant Expenditures	44,788
2017 Budgets (& 2016 Residuals)	\$ 70,291
Committed Grant Expenditures	25,000
Donated Funds for Endowments	5,500
Subtotal	<u>\$100,791</u>
Excess Position	<u>\$ 46,143</u>

## Development and Marketing Committee

1. Held 2nd annual “Prairie Chase” walk-run and raised \$8000
2. Coordinated production of the 2017 phenology calendar and raised \$3000
3. Increased donations
4. Carried out 3rd year of “Hit the Trails” campaign
5. Gained permission to install “Crane Cam” in wetland

## Governance Committee

1. Lead board through a strategic planning process that established goals and priorities for the next 3 years
2. Recruited volunteers to enable FOPBC to achieve objectives
3. Recruited new board and committee members
4. Coordinated with UW Urban and Regional Planning Professor Jeff Sledge to study the health effects of the Conservancy



# Song of Joy

By Janet Kane, FOPBC Restoration and Management Co-Chair

On one of my first visits to Pheasant Branch Conservancy, I heard a glorious song. I followed it to a bird with a dappled back and a striking V across its bright yellow breast - my first meadowlark. The clear, simple song expresses such joy! Meadowlarks still make their homes in the Conservancy.



*Please keep your dog on a leash in the Conservancy to protect ground nesting birds*

They nest on the ground, fashioning nests in shallow depressions and weaving domes from grasses and nearby vegetation. But nesting on the ground has risks.

Dogs are welcome in the conservancy, as long as they are leashed. Both the City of Middleton and Dane County require dogs to be leashed in the Conservancy. A major goal of the restoration work in the Conservancy is to provide habitat for birds, insects, and other animals that characterize Wisconsin's landscape and to harbor species that are declining because of habitat loss.

When dogs run free, they disrupt the lives of these species that we work hard to attract. If I remind dog owners about the leash requirement, I'm often told that their dog "won't harm anything" - but that's not the point. A ground-nesting bird or mammal can feel threatened by any encounter with a dog and may decide to relocate somewhere else. And allowing dogs to run free in the conservancy is against the law. If you're a dog walker,



*Eastern Meadowlark*

please keep your your dog leashed and on the paths, and encourage others to do the same.

Next time you hear the meadowlark singing, thank the dog owners who leash their dogs and help to provide quality habitat for the meadowlarks and other ground nesting birds. Enjoy the spring symphony!

## Education Corner...

*Continued from page 10*

and high school choral and music students will have another opportunity for service learning by performing in the Conservancy. Taking it outside presents a new set of challenges and rewards. Students have priority through April for performance sign ups. Other local musicians register in May. We look forward to student sign-ups and community members listening on.

### Ongoing program development and maintenance

We are working furiously to start or maintain several projects this year:

- A culminating Conservancy visit to celebrate the first year of the 4K/preschool outdoor curriculum.

- Self-guided backpacks – creating more, duplicating others and finding ways to administer this program.
- K – 4 curriculum improvements – an ongoing need and exciting challenge!

Join the Friends' education program as a volunteer naturalist, committee member, intern, or specific project lead. No doubt you have something amazing to share! Contact Colleen to explore opportunities.



*A Girl Scout Brownie self-guided backpack*



# President's Message...

*Continued from page 2*

trouble with other dogs or scare children. Pheasant Branch Conservancy is **not** a place for off leash dogs. There are dog parks close by for that. Unfortunately, we have received numerous complaints

this season about dogs off leash, so I would like to remind people about the leash requirement. Let's be able to have our dogs by our side in the Conservancy and protect the nesting birds that help

make this place so special. Thanks.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Eagan

# Bader Grant...

*Continued from page 1*

have asked the same guiding question of many older adult groups, at a variety of locations.

*In what ways does the Pheasant Branch Conservancy contribute to your quality of life?*

In the previous issues of this newsletter, the Education Committee has shared exciting information about the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy's new goal to provide materials and programs for older adults and those individuals experiencing memory challenges. In these articles, research has been cited on the physical and mental health benefits of integrating nature into one's lifestyle. A number of studies have shared positive data on an individual's improved mood, reduced stress, better concentration, deeper sleep patterns and positive cardio and immune system health improvements.

The Education Committee and a new committee exploring the concept of accessibility have been networking with organizations in Middleton and neighboring communities. The outcome of this effort has been the establishment of collaborative relationships with several senior living communities, senior centers, Dementia Friendly Community coalitions, Memory Cafes and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Nursing and the Department of Urban/Regional Planning.

In early 2016, at the recommendation of our collaborative partners, a grant

application was submitted - "Make a Memory - the Healing Powers of Nature." In November 2016, the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy received funding from the Helen Daniels



Bader Fund, a Bader Philanthropy.

The grant will allow us to address three key objectives.

1. Develop and implement strategies designed to facilitate use of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and foster relationships with two underserved populations: senior citizens and individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia.
2. Based on feedback from senior citizens, individuals with memory loss (and their caregivers) and trained naturalists, we will begin the planning to enhance educational materials, programs, technology, special events and possibly the infrastructure

(benches, signage, wayfinding, paths and trails) of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

3. Share the program strategies developed with environmental groups and communities throughout this region and state.

This grant will provide immediate support to the Education Committee. Members are currently working with our partners to plan special programs in 2017 - "Senior Days and Dementia Friendly Community Days at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy." The programs are designed to introduce (or reacquaint) the individual to the Conservancy through naturalist-led activities with a focus on sensory perception and light exercise.

You are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Thursday, May 18 at 3 PM** at the Heritage Senior Living in Middleton. This meeting will provide details about the initial plans from the Accessibility Committee and the components of the Bader Grant. This meeting will also give seniors, individuals with memory loss challenges and community members an opportunity to share their ideas related to accessibility and enhancement of their visits to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

We hope to see you on May 18th.

For more information contact John Daly (jhdaly@charter.net) or Anne Boucher (anne\_boucher@yahoo.com).



# EDUCATION CORNER:

## Kids for the Earth Program News

By Colleen Robinson, FOPBC Education Coordinator

All of the education efforts outlined below are possible because of Friends memberships, donations and volunteers. As always, thank you for your involvement!

### **Conservancy Day Programs 2017**

We've learned about amazing programs this year, including the Urban Canid Project of UW-Madison and pilot research on water quality effects of leaf litter in our community.

More programs are on the way – and you will want to be there! All events are free and open to the public. Subscribe to monthly reminder emails by sending a request to [education@pheasantbranch.org](mailto:education@pheasantbranch.org). RSVPs are always appreciated too. Stay tuned for details and updates at [pheasantbranch.org](http://pheasantbranch.org).

### **Special initiatives centered on health and nature**

May 18, 3 PM, Heritage Senior Living, Middleton

People have an innate need to interact with nature. The benefits of being in nature include decreased stress, improved immune system functioning, and greater creativity. For persons with dementia, learning disabilities, and attention deficit disorders, engaging in an outdoor sensory experience can result in improved symptoms. This program will focus on two initiatives of the FOPBC:

In 2016, graduate students of the Urban and Regional Planning Department at UW-Madison examined the role of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy within the greater community to determine suggestions to better serve community needs. One area of interest was the role the Conservancy can play in improving

one's health. UW School of Nursing graduate student Katie Mead will share her research on the importance of including nature to improve your health.

The Friends received a two-year grant



*The May Conservancy Day will focus on health and nature*

from Helen Daniels Bader Fund, a Bader Philanthropy to explore various ways we can support the use of the Conservancy for targeted populations. In Summer 2017, a special program is being implemented - "Senior Days and Dementia Friendly Community Days at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy." Education Committee member John Daly will share the details of these special days.

### **Citizen Science – it can't be done without you!**

June 15, 6 – 7 PM

Clark Street Community School, 2429 Clark Street, Middleton

Citizen monitoring is becoming a more and more critical tool for scientists and property managers trying to control or solve invasive species impacts. Reports of citizens also give important information about restoration efforts and the status of highly desirable species or habitats. Eva Lewandowski of the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources will share an overview of this concept, examples of success stories from across the state and opportunities for you to get involved.

### **Restoration in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy**

July 20, 6:30-8 PM at the Homestead Site.

(The Homestead site is where the farmhouse used to be. Walk in on the main trail from Orchid Heights Park on the east side, or Pheasant Branch Road on the west side. The Homestead site is south of the trail at the kiosk with signs describing area settlement. It's across from a large mowed area that's used for volunteer parking on workdays.)

We hear a lot about restoration efforts at the Conservancy. Thousands of hours of work, a long history of need and accomplishments, the celebration of returning rare species and new personal nature experiences are all a part of it. Perhaps you know this well and perhaps you only know a fraction of the story. Either way, enjoy a walk in the Conservancy to learn more, reflect and appreciate what we have and why.

### **K-12 School Field Trips**

As of April 1, we already have requests for more than 250 students to learn in the Conservancy's outdoor classroom this spring! If you'd like to help lead programs, we are always looking for naturalist volunteers and we'll get you up to speed before you start. Please contact Colleen today!

### **Summer service-learning**

Tunes on Tuesdays is back by popular demand! This year in June, middle

*continued on page 8...*



# GET OUT THERE: Restoration Volunteer Opportunities

By Janet Kane, FOPBC Restoration and Management Co-Chair

## **Join in!**

Jim Loving, Forrest Weesner and Janet Kane are back to coordinate R&M workdays and other activities. We look forward to reconnecting with past volunteers and meeting new ones. This year we're aiming to log at least 3,000 hours. Volunteers get out into the prairie and contribute to its beauty, diversity, and resilience.

Monthly workdays started April 15. We work from 9 to noon, with a mid-morning break for refreshments. Check the Friends website for general information, and watch for details from restoration@pheasantbranch.com. (If you don't get e-mails about upcoming workdays, send a request to be added to the list.)

Mark your calendar to plan around the other regular workdays:

- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21

We also schedule special workdays, depending on workday leadership and time-sensitive needs. These are publicized through the e-mail list. Join us when you can.

## **Restoration Work Through the Winter**

As part of the Friends Aquatic Invasive Species grant, Craig Annen and the Integrated Restorations crew continued to clear woody brush from the wetland

over the winter, despite the challenge of the temperature swings causing freezing and thawing. Dane County Parks arranged for Operation Fresh Start crews to clear various areas of the Conservancy. There are piles of brush and logs from their efforts! Check out the spectacular view from the back of the hill!



*Wetland burn*

## **Spring Burn**

The Friends are partnering with the City of Middleton to burn along the west side of the Conservancy north of the stream flowing under the bridge just beyond Whittlesey Road. This is the first time we've burned the wetland. We're eager to see the vegetation that will emerge after the fire. Areas along the west and east edge will also be burned to control cool season grasses. With contributions from members and other supporters, the Friends are able to hire Quercus Land Management to conduct the burn.

## **New Initiatives**

R&M will focus on several activities in 2017. If you'd like to volunteer for any of these, or would like more information, e-mail restoration@pheasantbranch.org.

## **Invasives Task Force**

We need help with monitoring the Conservancy and mapping the location

of invasives like garlic mustard, bird's foot trefoil, and crown vetch. We also need some sharp-eyed spotters to look out for new species so we can address them before they get established on site. Resources for identifying, reporting, and aggregating information are available through the Wisconsin First Detector Network, WIFDN, and UW Extension. Training will be provided. R&M will use the information to set priorities for workdays.

## **Small Group Leaders**

Are you able to commit to a leadership role? Each year we get several requests to host large volunteer groups, but we're limited by the number of people who can work with inexperienced volunteers. We'll provide the training for you if you can step up to

occasionally work with a group of 3-6 people on restoration activities.

## **Tool Storage Trailer**

Dane County has approved our getting a bigger trailer for the workday supplies. Once the trailer is purchased, we'll need people to install shelving and storage bins. If you have some basic construction skills and are able to help, let us know!



*Crown vetch is one of the many invasives you can help us monitor*



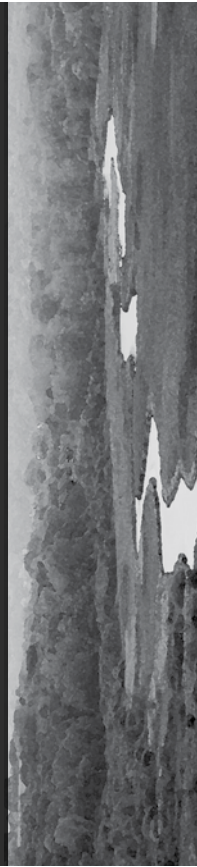
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Our 2016 Annual Report is included in this issue: pages 6-7

# PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY SPRING-SUMMER 2017 EVENTS



## CONNECT WITH NATURE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### MAY

- 18th - Conservancy Day Program (page 10)
- 20th - Restoration Workday (page 11)

### JUNE

- 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th - Tunes on Tuesdays (page 5)
- 15th - Conservancy Day Program (page 10)
- 17th - Restoration Workday (page 11)
- 24th - Prairie Chase Run/Walk (page 1)

### JULY

- 15th - Restoration Workday (page 11)
- 15th - Ted Shannon Memorial Service (page 5)
- 20th - Conservancy Day Program (page 10)

### AUGUST

- 17th - Conservancy Day Program (TBA)
- 19th - Restoration Workday (page 11)

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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

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**THE FRIENDS OF PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY**