



SPRINGS

Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Newsletter

FOPBC Takes the Lead in Developing 4-K Outdoor Education

By Bruce Froehlke

FOPBC President Dagny Myrah announced plans to develop an outdoor education program for students enrolled in area pre-kindergarten programs. The \$1500 cost will come from the Glen C. Pulver endowment, funded by gifts from the friends and family of the late UW-Madison educator.

“This gift will expand our already extensive cooperation with school districts in Dane County,” Myrah said. “Educators know that it is not too early to introduce children to environmental concepts and experiences at four years, an age of great wonder.”

The Pulver funds will be used to develop



Dr Glen Pulver, UW-Madison Professor of Agricultural Economics and Dean of UW-Extension

a field curriculum and materials in cooperation with Middleton/Cross Plains School District teachers and library staff. Volunteers and naturalists who work with the Friends will also be involved. The goal is to have a program up and running by 2017.

“We expect the cooperative development of the concept will help assure that implementation will be smooth,” said Deb Weitzel, chair of the FOPBC Education Committee.

“This is an amazing opportunity,” said Middleton/Cross Plains 4K/Early Childhood Principal Kari Gault. “We continue to be so very grateful for the

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20th Anniversary Celebration Event

By John Daly

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead’s familiar quote has never been truer than in the previously undocumented story of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy . . . That is until now!

On Sunday, November 15th, Friends’ Board Member John Daly welcomed an audience of over eighty community members to the Middleton Performing Arts Center (PAC). The primary purpose of this special afternoon event was to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Friends of Pheasant Branch as a non-profit organization. A secondary purpose

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WINTER 2015-2016

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Protect. Restore. Promote.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Friends,

As we end this 20th anniversary year, it's time to reflect on the highlights of 2015. The Friends hosted 2 wonderful celebratory events - the Prairie Chase all-day event in June and intergenerational video event on November 15th at the Middleton Performing Art Center where complimentary copies of documentary videos were given to all attendees. In the Conservancy volunteers worked to remove invasive plants; collect, clean and sort native seeds for reseeding; plan and assist with controlled burns. Other volunteers in hip waders measured water quality and temperature in Pheasant Branch Creek. Dozens of yellow buses delivered school children to collect seeds or learn about nature through fun games. Eagle Scouts worked on 5 different projects to improve access, restore native plants and control trail erosion. The Education Committee announced plans to fund development of pre-kindergarten outdoor education curriculum.

The season's first snowfall blanketed the Conservancy in white, but this taste of winter was short lived. The trails are again filled with walkers, runners, bikers and

bird watchers. There are single walkers enjoying the view or talking on their phones, parents carrying or pushing their children, people walking dogs, families together on bikes, couples enjoying some quiet time together or small groups of friends busy exchanging events of their lives as they exercise. These activities are not always mutually compatible, but a warning ring of a bike bell or "on your left" is a welcome courtesy.

Many people enjoy using the Conservancy and many people work to keep the Conservancy a beautiful place for diverse enjoyments. Beside the fifteen members of the board there are many active committee members and volunteers. One of these might be you and we appreciate your support. This is also the time to renew your membership. Each donation large or small is important. Thank you for renewing and hope to see you at the annual meeting on January 23, 2016.

Sincerely,

Dagny Myrah

OUR BOARD

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Treasurer *Kirt Soukup* Secretary *Stefanie Brouwer*

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Stefanie Brouwer and Joleen Stinson

Illustrations/Photos
Tom Crozier, Bill Engels, Wava Haney, Janet Kane, Dale Klubertanz, Colleen Robinson Klug, MCPASD, Joan Pulver, Amy Rosebrough

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

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

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memberships purchased after 9/1 apply to following calendar year

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Additional Giving Opportunities:

- \$100 \$750
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- \$500 Other: _____

Phenology Calendar:

- \$12.95 for one calendar
- \$25.90 two to same address

Please send your membership and payment to:

Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy
P.O. Box 628242
Middleton, WI 53562-8242

Al Goldstein: Champion of the Bock Forest

By *Stefanie Brouwer*

The Bock Foundation has awarded a 2016 grant to the Friends in honor of Al Goldstein, a Conservancy neighbor, FOPBC member, and recently retired trustee of the Bock Foundation. This is the fifth consecutive year that the Friends have received a grant for restoration and management of the Bock Community Forest. In total the foundation has awarded six grants to the Friends totaling over \$275,000. The sixth was awarded in 2006 for acquisition of the 19-acre Bock Forest from the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District. The moving force behind these awards - as well as creation of the Bock Foundation in 2001 - is Middleton resident Al Goldstein. A friend of John Bock, he was instrumental in convincing him to create the foundation for the “preservation, maintenance and enhancement of land areas in their natural or undeveloped state that support woodlands and old-growth forests.” Al served as a trustee of the foundation from its inception until early this year.

Al championed the Conservancy throughout his tenure on the board. When the Friends were working diligently to raise funds to buy the Bock Forest, he convinced the board of the importance of the acquisition with the result that they awarded \$200,000.00 to the effort (the largest award they’ve ever given).



Al Goldstein speaking at the Bock Community Forest dedication, July 25, 2009

But Al didn’t stop there. He continued to advocate for the Friend’s efforts to restore and maintain the woodland, prairie, and savanna and to create the community garden. Restoration and management grants have been awarded every year since 2011. The city, Dane County, Boy Scouts and Friends volunteers have all been involved in management and restoration. Moreover, the Bock grants have been essential in leveraging funds each year from the City of Middleton. Says Penni Klein, Public Lands Manager for the city, “the grants have been a major catalyst for keeping the restoration on track and motivating the city to match funding in the project.”

As part of the Conservancy, the Bock Community Forest is now a popular destination for hiking, bird watching, gardening, and nature study. So hats off to Al Goldstein without him, the Bock Community Forest and gardens - with all their abundance, beauty and diversity of native plants and animals, their trails and vistas - would not exist!

Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough: Sharing Knowledge, Skill and Time to Protect the Cultural Legacy of the Conservancy

By *Stefanie Brouwer*

The Friends are fortunate to have one of the state’s experts on effigy mounds and Native American archaeology living right here in Middleton close to the Conservancy. Amy Rosebrough, Assistant State Archaeologist with the Wisconsin State Historical Society, is a willing and extremely knowledgeable resource on the archaeology of the Conservancy.

As anyone familiar with the Conservancy knows, a group of effigy mounds once

existed atop Fredericks Hill (they have since been plowed away.) And over the years, FOPBC volunteers and visitors have occasionally discovered projectile points left from residents who lived here 1,000-2,000 years ago. Amy regularly leads tours - always informative and delightful - in the Conservancy and Pope Farm Park. She is guiding the Eagle Scouts who are working to restore native prairie plants to the burial grounds on Frederick’s Hill.

Amy is a native of West Plains, Missouri. She graduated from the University of

Arkansas, excavated in North and South Dakota, and came to UW-Madison to pursue her doctoral degree, which she completed in 2010.

Amy is an expert on the effigy mounds of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. Wisconsin is the center of the prehistoric Woodland culture responsible for the mounds. Consequently, Wisconsin has the largest number of mounds of any state in the nation and the largest number saved from destruction and preserved on

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NATURALIST NOTEBOOK: News of Nature in the Conservancy

An Uncertain Winter in the Conservancy

By Dale Klubertanz

As an early snow quickly melted and disappeared in a heavy rain that dampened Thanksgiving, there was already a hint that this winter might be unusually temperamental. El Niño, abrew in the tropical Pacific, is far afield but possibly already a factor. The remaining migratory cranes have given some indication that they are willing to hang around for a while to feast on what remains of the harvest in the neighboring farmer's cornfield. All things considered, there is a sense that something may be capricious in the wind.

Still, winter in the Conservancy will soon draw everything into its intimacy, quickly inciting a hardwired instinct for creature and plant alike. Each knows to take a certain refuge in den, soil, down, fur, burrow, thicket, or turn restlessly to the sky. Few will sense the forces aroused in distant places or act beyond an immediate impulse inside the moment at hand, one which signals the challenging months ahead.

Surely the winter Conservancy walker or the roaming coyote will notice the shorter days with the sun's closest proximity to the horizon, as night prevails over daylight. Their thoughts might range from reflecting on the blue-white rendered beauty to hopefully finding scarce food before the quickening evening comes. Neither will likely contemplate the play of the earth's tilt, tipping at 23.44° at an oblique angle to the sun ($> 90^\circ$). The

sun's rays will thus travel further to reach Conservancy lands, cooled by the Earth's atmosphere and spread more evenly over its many surfaces.

The earth will capture the sun's warmth as it stirs the wind from a distance of 94.5 million miles, its "perihelion" or closest

"When warm air rises, cooler air will often move in to replace it, so wind often moves from areas where it's colder to areas where it's warmer. The greater the difference between the high and low pressure or the shorter the distance between the high and low pressure areas, the faster the wind will blow."
~ The "Weather Dude"



point. Braced against the buffeting winds, hardly any will take the time to note the instance or ask why the earth is coldest when the sun is closest, save an inquisitive phenologist. In the notebook she might scribble, it's all about "the tilt".

Expanding high to low-pressure exchanges, moving great masses of air, can wreak snowy havoc as they rouse and spin a dance with temperature and moisture. The chickadee will ruffle and

fluff its feathers with air, considering only the conditions in the surrounding woodlands, a favorite tree branch or newly renovated hollow. The fox warms its red winter cloak in the sunny aspect of a southern exposure. She sleeps without knowing morning's forecast or the reasons for why the wind blows so coldly and from whence it comes. Perhaps by way of Saskatchewan, across the plains through Minnesota or ushered though warm, wet places along the Mississippi valley, the uneasy wind seeks to find and fill a frigid, airy vacuum to give up its moisture.

But in another part of the world, weakened trade winds of El Niño are giving way to warm ocean waters moving eastward from faraway Indonesia. To a meteorologist, this could bring mild temperatures and a wet, snowless Conservancy. Still, fur and feathered coats are issued, hibernation dens prepared and return migration flights scheduled with seasonal accuracy. Prairies, forests and woodlands are fast asleep resting assured

in accordance to time-honored alarm clocks. The seed waits in turn for outer signals to trigger an inner stirring for its opening act in the spring.

Nevertheless, even El Niño can be expected to typically follow a five to seven year cycle and is part of the wider variations of nature. A rapidly warming climate is likely to be more than a prairie, forest or wetland could ever imagine.

Friends Celebration Day...

Continued from page 1

was to acknowledge the powerful role a *group of thoughtful, committed citizens* played here in Middleton to make a long-lasting change.

This free public event began with a social mix and multiple table displays that shared visuals and text materials focused on the current efforts of the Friends' four standing committees (Development & Marketing, Education, Restoration & Management and Watershed) and the initiatives of our environmental partners (Dane County Parks, Middleton Public Lands, Recreation & Forestry and the Middleton High School Ecology Club). The participants enjoyed food and beverages as they wandered the foyer and viewed/purchased the 2016 Phenology Calendar (yes, they are now available!) and the beautiful note cards by local artist Sharifa Merchant.

Guests were then ushered into the PAC theater to view video documentaries about the Conservancy. John Daly set the mood by sharing some history.

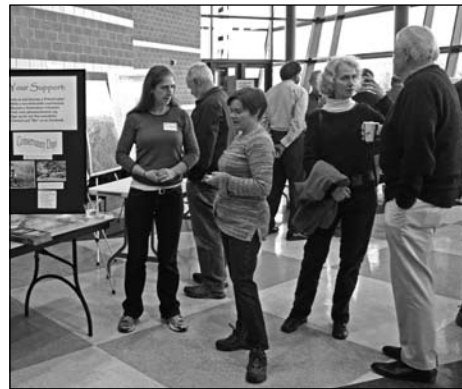
In 1965 (50 years ago) a group of neighbors who lived along what is called the "Creek Corridor" met in neighborhood homes. These early Protectors of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy had a Vision and they made sure they had a Voice for the future.

In 1995 (20 years ago) the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy organized as a non-profit. These early Protectors of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy had a Vision and they made sure they had a Voice for the future.

In 2015, two video documentary projects were created that looked at the PBC through different intergenerational lenses.

Conservancy Connections was a video project supported by a grant award from American Girl Fund for Children. Students from the Advanced Visual Presentation Technology Class at

Middleton High School collaborated



Above: Education Coordinator Colleen Robinson Klug interacts with FOFBC members

Below: Emily Sackett (right) and Susan Vebe (left) sell notecards by Middleton artist Sharifa Merchant. Cards are still available. Contact Sharifa at 608-833-5330



with senior citizens, business leaders, government officials and school district educators to create a series of documentaries about the importance of the Conservancy to the community. Teacher Bill Boehm introduced this video documentary to the audience and emphasized that the students used their own voice to create eight different videos to answer the question - "What impact does the PBC have on our community".

After the viewing the students' thoughtful work, Friends' board member Dale Klubertanz used Margaret Mead's earlier quote to focus the audience attention

on the fascinating story of the PBC. *20 Years of Advocacy for the Conservancy* tells the story of the Conservancy from early times to the present. This video documentary chronicles the important grass root initiatives and the commitment of concerned citizens. Dale called this video documentary a second chapter in the on-going story of citizens who have cared enough to conserve and enhance this special urban oasis for generations past, present and the future. Dale has a gift for capturing this oral history and he plans to continue this project in 2016.

Complimentary copies of both video documentary projects were presented to all in attendance. Additional copies will be given to the public library, the school district for distribution to the schools, and to our intergenerational partners in the community - the Heritage, Middleton Glen, the Middleton Senior Center and Attic Angels on Old Sauk Road in Madison.

(A grant award from the American Girl Fund for Children supported the students' video documentary project. A grant award from the Middleton Endowment supported the November 15th celebration event.)



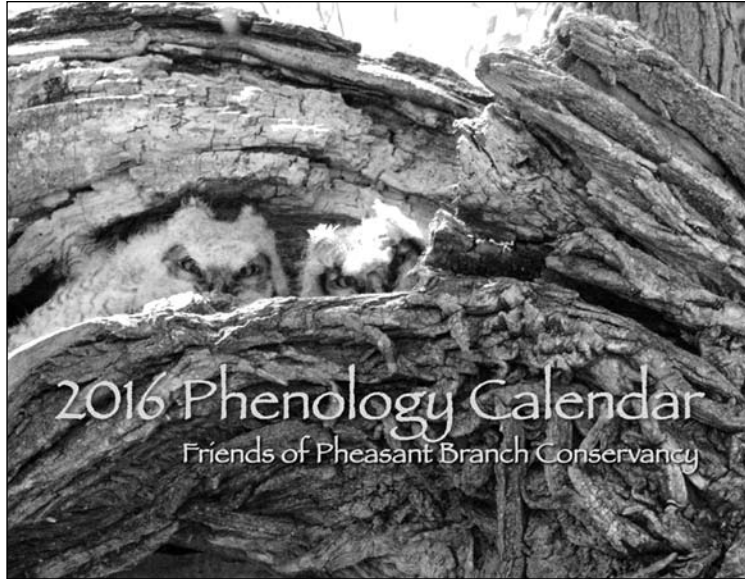
Annual Phenology Calendar: A Guide for Year-long Learning

By Dale Klubertanz

The Friends' unique phenology calendar is now available, ready for the holidays and the New Year. It can be purchased through the Friends' webpage and local businesses, including Willy St. Coop, Wild Birds Unlimited, UW-Arboretum, Prairie Café, UW-Bookstore, Fontana, Eagle Optics, Orange Tree Imports, the Wisconsin State Historical Society Bookstore, Fleet Feet Sport, Ace Hardware - Middleton, Wolf-Kubly, Gary's Frame, Meuer Art & Picture Frame, The Regal Find - Middleton, Momentum - Middleton and Best Cleaners - Middleton Hills.

The calendar is filled with the artwork, photography and prose of many local people who support the Friends' advocacy and activities. It is a creative process that brings together an intergenerational team of individuals, blending the knowledge and skills of Middleton youth and adults alike, through art, writing and science.

The calendar is full of phenology and fun facts, with both color and black and white illustrations tailored to open up the world of exploring nature. Each



month comes with a list of what plant and wildlife species are emerging in the Conservancy. There is space to mark day-to-day observations, changes and discoveries while walking along the paths.

At the center of the calendar's design, theme and material is creator Andrea Gargus, a biologist (mycologist) and former UW-Madison professor. Each year, Andrea turns her talents as both artist and scientist, working from summer through early fall to fashion a new edition of the phenology calendar. She draws from a diversity of subject areas that include mammals, birds, fungi, reptiles, insects, geology, astronomy,

photography, weather, history, restoration ecology - even mathematics and physics.

Alongside the pages of phenology are student photos, poems and prose illustrating the essence of each season. Board member Deb Weitzel has worked closely each year with teachers and students to inspire young photographers and writers to capture the Conservancy through their personal art and writing. The student's creations become a central hallmark to each year's calendar.

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy's yearly phenology calendar is more than just a calendar. Beyond photos, dates and holidays, it "considers natural history with the touchstone of the Conservancy, beginning with the bedrock, water table and soil through the plant layer and extending to our atmosphere, out to our location in the solar system" (A. Gargus). Moreover, it is an effort that represents cross-generational investment in a fragile and changing environment and opportunities to know and support the Pheasant Branch Conservancy, both for the present day and the future.

2016 Phenology Calendar Order Form (or order online on our website)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- \$12.95 for one calendar
- \$25.90 for two calendars
- \$38.85 for three calendars
- \$51.80 for four calendars
- \$64.75 for five calendars

Please send this form and payment to:
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy
P.O. Box 628242
Middleton, WI 53562-8242

Amy Rosebrough...

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public or private lands. Middleton and Madison have many existing effigy mounds often located near water or at higher elevations.

As assistant state archaeologist, Amy wears many hats. She travels throughout the state identifying and researching mounds; educates the public through publications, tours and talks; and maintains a database of all the burial mound sites in the state. Both state and federal laws protect Native American burial sites so part of Amy's job is



Amy Rosebrough leading an archaeological tour

to make sure these laws are followed whenever a state agency (i.e., the Dept. of Transportation) or local government proposes a change to the landscape (i.e., a road project). Archaeological surveys are required in these situations and Amy is always involved.

Amy is author of numerous publications including *Water Panthers, Bears and Thunderbirds: Exploring Wisconsin's Effigy Mounds* and teaching guides for classrooms and libraries.

Annual Meeting on January 23, 2016

Join the Friends on Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 9:00-11:00 AM to celebrate another successful year of restoring and promoting the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and watershed.

It will be held at Kromrey Middle School, located at 7009 Donna Dr, Middleton, WI 53562. The meeting will take place in the cafeteria/auditorium. There is a presentation stage in the room and a wonderful view of the Pheasant Branch Creek.

Breakfast will be served buffet style and will consist of eggs, bacon, hash browns, coffee, tea and juice prepared by the District's Food and Nutrition Department. The cost is \$12.00 per person.



Kromrey's recently renovated cafeteria/ auditorium is not your "typical" school lunch room and the view of the creek is something to look forward to

Our speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Potter, UW-Madison professor of Civil

and Environmental Engineering. He will discuss changes in rain patterns and impacts on Dane County's water resources. Dr. Potter's talk will cover predicted changes in Madison lake levels and discuss potential impacts on local groundwater and spring flow at locations such as the Conservancy. It will be followed by a business meeting to elect new board members. The 2016 Phenology Calendar, featuring outstanding photography, poetry and phenological information for the Conservancy, will be available at the welcoming table when you enter.

Please RSVP by January 16. Please complete this form or register online at www.pheasantbranch.org.

YES! I (we) will attend the FOPBC annual meeting!

Name(s): _____

Number of attendees: _____

Street: _____

Amount enclosed: (\$12 per person) _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Register Using This Form or Go Online
www.pheasantbranch.org

Phone: _____

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Please send this form and payment to:
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P.O. Box 628242
Middleton, WI 53562-8242

4-K Outdoor Education ...

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generosity of the Friends toward our young people.”

Dr. Glen Pulver was a University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty member and dean who was known as the father of community economics. Dr. Pulver had an avid interest in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. When he died in 2000, friends and family began making

gifts to the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy in his memory. In 2008, the Friends used those accumulated gifts to establish the Glen C. Pulver endowment fund. The principal currently exceeds \$26,200. Income from this endowment is intended to support the educational work of the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The Madison Community

Foundation manages this fund, together with a similar fund dedicated to the Friends’ restoration mission. The Friends’ Board of Directors allocates income.

“It’s heartening to us to be able to keep Glen’s memory – and his life work as an educator – alive in this way,” President Myrah said.

	Resolution #1: Renew Friends Membership
	(Finally – A New Year’s resolution I can keep!)
	As we celebrate the New Year, we are thankful for so many good Friends!

New Board Members for 2016

By Lyman Wible, Governance Committee Chair

FOPBC is fortunate to have two very qualified individuals joining the board in 2016. They will be elected at the annual meeting. Leaving the board at the end of this year are Dale Klubertanz and Kirt Soukup. Each has contributed significantly to the Friends and the Conservancy with dedication, knowledge, and hard work. We will miss them.

Holly Sledge

Holly Sledge is a CPA in Middleton, employed as Tax Manager at Meicher CPA’s, LLP. She is an active bicyclist and outdoor enthusiast. Holly served 5 years on the board of the non-profit group, Community GroundWorks (formerly Friends of Troy Gardens), as a board member and treasurer. Holly is from Massachusetts, and lives in Madison with her husband Jeff.

Pam Shannon

Pam Shannon grew up in Madison and Middleton, attending Middleton High School for two years in the 1960s before moving to Beirut, Lebanon with her

family, where she spent her last two years of high school. She returned to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin, from which she received her undergraduate degree in history in 1972 and her law degree in 1977. Between college and law school, she served as a VISTA volunteer in northern Wisconsin, where she worked closely with the Indian Tribes and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. She currently lives in Madison with her husband, Doug Bradley, a writer, Vietnam veteran, and retired UW System communications director. They have two grown children and a newborn grandson.

In 2013, Pam retired after 32 years as a senior staff attorney at the Wisconsin Legislative Council, a nonpartisan service agency providing legal services to the Wisconsin Legislature and its committees. At the Council, she staffed a diverse array of committees with subject areas ranging from state-tribal relations and family law to lead poisoning prevention and veterans affairs. She served for several years as Director of the Council’s Administrative Rules Clearinghouse,

which was responsible for reviewing and commenting on all administrative rules proposed by state agencies. She also mentored and supervised the written work of junior staff members and participated in a program providing technical assistance to the parliaments of Morocco, Algeria and Lebanon.

Her interest in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy stems from her late mother Dorothy Shannon’s involvement as a founding member of the Friends of Pheasant Branch and her long record of community activism on environmental and planning issues. Shannon Prairie in the Conservancy is dedicated to her and is a place that holds great personal significance for Pam and her entire family. In retirement, she is looking for a community organization to which she can devote volunteer time and energy. When she read in the recent newsletter that the Friends organization was seeking potential new board members, she contacted Lyman Wible to express her interest in serving on the board.

Bock Forest Restoration Update

By Mike Healy, Adaptive Restoration LLC

In 2015 the restored prairie and savanna at the Bock Community Forest bloomed with a dazzling display of color and abundance. Planted in fall of 2012, the diversity and number of native plants has steadily increased. This year we observed at least 64 of the species contained in the seed mixes. In addition, nearly all the tree planting in the restoration is now complete. Unlike previous years when invasives prevailed, native plants now dominate the restoration, providing food and shelter for wildlife and year-round color and interest for Conservancy visitors.

None of this could have been accomplished without the help of dozens of volunteers, a grant from the John C.

Bock Foundation and assistance from the City of Middleton, Dane County, the Bock Community Gardeners, and dedicated members of the Friends. Through a series of work sessions throughout the growing season, we've been able to keep the weeds at bay and give the young trees, prairie and savanna plants room to grow.

Concurrent with the restoration work at Bock Forest, Boy Scouts and city crews recently built a 0.3-mile natural surface-hiking trail. The trail starts just north of the kiosk on the trail off Highland Way and meanders northwest, through the prairie and mature oak woodland. If you hike the trail you'll enjoy an up-close look at the savanna and oak woodland restoration. A loop trail in the woodland provides nice views of the Conservancy wetlands and Frederick's Hill to the

north.

Next steps for the restoration include:

- Harvesting cottonwoods along the eastern boundary of the parcel
- Planting the remainder of the site to prairie and oak savanna (areas formerly occupied by cottonwoods)
- Cutting, pulling, and spot-spraying weeds, to give the prairie plants room to grow
- Transplanting trees and shrubs from the Bock Garden nursery
- Conducting prescribed burns, to promote prairie seedling germination and establishment
- Partnering with neighbors to limit the spread of invasive species into the Conservancy

Stay tuned for announcements of volunteer restoration sessions in 2016!

Restoration...

The project entailed thwarting invasive flora by covering burial site with recycled carpeting, researching and collecting seeds of native grasses and flowers, and later uncovering the mounds and dispersing the collected seeds." Connor's project was one phase of an ongoing effort to restore native plant communities on the site.

Daniel MacLean, Troop 640, Steps from Trail to Springs

"In my project we built 30 steps at Pheasant Branch Conservancy. It was a vigorous task which included buying supplies, building step frames, digging trenches, and putting in the steps. Overall, I thought the project went well and the steps came out great!" The new steps repair the eroded trail and provide a welcoming path to the springs. Enjoy!

Ethan Wildes, Troop 640, Trail Water Diversion Trenches

"My project consisted of installing metal troughs into the trail to help prevent erosion as well as adding more soil and



Connor Kooistra (4th from right) and work crew - Indian Mound restoration



Daniel McLean - steps from trail to springs

reseeding the trail." The troughs are a pilot project. Through this year, we will evaluate their effectiveness in reducing trail erosion. Send your observations to restoration@pheasantbranch.org.



Ethan Wildes (front & center) and work crew - trail water diversion trenches

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EDUCATION CORNER:

Kids for the Earth Program News

By Colleen Robinson Klug, FOPBC Education Coordinator

Thank you to members, donors and volunteers... you ARE our education program!

K-12 School Field Trips

More than 600 students in kindergarten through eighth grade visited the Conservancy this year for outdoor field trips! In addition, more than 500 high school freshman in biology visited our outdoor classrooms twice this autumn!

The biology service-learning project looked a little different this year, with adjustments to the learning day made by teachers. This kind of active, ongoing partnership in our programs is exactly what we want. It makes the entire program more sustainable into the future.

Thank you to all who continue to be involved, engaged and open to improvements in our already phenomenal service learning programs!!

Have you ordered your 2016 phenology calendar yet? The photos are exclusively from high school students in our photography service-learning program! The calendar also features prose from our advanced composition service-learning program. Get yours today from pheasantbranch.org, and a few as gifts too!

Our education committee has been busy visiting PTO meetings to ensure that all classrooms are aware of the opportunities

for learning in the Conservancy. If you are part of a PTO and would like to learn or share more, please let Colleen know.

If you'd like to help lead or create education programs, we are always



Above: Building a tree activity in the "Tree Field Trip"

Right: Mike McDowell's birdling field trips always attract a big crowd



looking for naturalist volunteers. We get you up to speed before you start. Please contact Colleen.

Bird walks with Mike McDowell

This year, Mike McDowell graciously led more than 250 people on many bird walks in the Conservancy. Check out amazing photographs and details from these outings on Mike's blog, <http://birddigiscoper.com> and join in the next round of hikes with Mike starting in April 2016! Schedule details will be on his blog and on our website.

Conservancy Day Programs

These free programs offered diverse indoor and outdoor adventures to all age levels in 2015. They will continue every third Thursday of the month in 2016 (except for December) on topics such

as bat monitoring, green businesses, composting, wildlife, birds, water resources, storytelling, the night sky and more! Stay tuned at pheasantbranch.org and join hundreds of other people who enjoy learning and exploring in and about the Conservancy. You can sign up to receive once-per-month email reminders by sending a message to education@pheasantbranch.org with the subject line: "CD Program subscribe".

New projects completed and underway

Thanks to funds from American Girl's Fund For Children we just completed an amazing, intergenerational video production project with high school students. And, thanks to our own Pulver

endowment fund, we will be creating brand new curriculum and tools for 4K outdoor learning in 2016. See page 1 of this issue for articles on these topics.

Naturalist volunteers, committee members and education interns

In 2015 eight new naturalists and our second education intern joined the education team. Their skills, ideas, energy and willingness to learn is, along with your support, what makes outdoor learning in the Conservancy possible.

Thank you all!! Join the Friends' education program as a volunteer naturalist, committee member, intern, or specific project lead. We know you have something amazing to share! Contact Colleen by email education@pheasantbranch.org to explore opportunities.



GET OUT THERE: Restoration Volunteer Opportunities

By Janet Kane, FOPBC Restoration & Management Committee Co-Chair

Friends Ongoing Stewardship, and Scouts Step Up

As the year comes to a close, we can take satisfaction in this year's efforts to protect and restore conservancy lands. Pheasant Branch Conservancy's native plant communities, wildlife, and water quality all enrich our lives in many ways.

Thanks to the workday volunteers for their effort and enthusiasm, the R&M Committee members for their thoughtful leadership, the restoration@pheasantbranch.org subscribers for their ongoing interest, the FOPB donors for providing financial resources, and the community groups for partnering with us.

This year, area Boy Scouts partnered with the Friends and Dane County Parks to address eroded trails, establish native plants in sensitive areas, and expand access. Susan Gruber, former R&M Chair and current County Liaison, matched the Scouts' interests with restoration needs. Wayne Pauly and Brian Meixner from Dane County Parks, Amy Rosebrough from the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Herb Garn from the Friends provided guidance and support. Here's a summary of the projects. Check them out!

Alex Fagre, Troop 87: North Trail Erosion Prevention

"My project was to install waterbars on a steep trail on the north end of the Conservancy to prevent erosion.

With the help of 30 volunteers, the project took only a few hours." The new trail hugs the north boundary at the back of Frederick's Hill. Take a hike and enjoy the trail improvements!



Alex Fagre (first row standing, second from left in cap) - north trail erosion prevention

John Jones, Troop 640, Bush Trail

"For my project I made a trail that goes along through the small springs in Pheasant Branch. Along the trail there is a stepping stone bridge that we made to cross the spring with a rope handle on the side.



John Jones - Bush Trail

At the end/beginning (depending on the way taken) you will find a deck with erosion control matting around which we placed and buried there so the

mower can have an easier time mowing." The trail goes between the deck at the homestead site and the multipurpose trail near the powerlines. Try it out!

Connor Kooistra, Troop 640, Indian Mounds

"Over the period of eight months, (I) worked with teams of volunteer Scouts to restore native prairie plants to Native American burial grounds using non-invasive techniques.

UPCOMING WORK DAYS

From December through March we have special workdays as conditions allow. If you'd like to be notified of these events, e-mail restoration@pheasantbranch.org and ask to be added to the list.

We do different things, depending on the needs at the time. Usually we'll spend at least part of the time knocking back non-native invasives.

Workdays are great opportunities to get off the trail and into the landscape, learning about what it takes for restored areas to flourish.

No experience needed, just a desire to sustain these special lands.

Dress for the prairie: closed-toe shoes, long pants, a hat and work gloves. We'll have extra gloves and provide the needed equipment.

Meet at the parking lot in the Dane County part of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, 4864 Pheasant Branch Road - 1.2 miles north of Century Avenue.

Workdays are weather dependent. If you let us know you're coming, we'll let you know if we have to cancel. E-mail restoration@pheasantbranch.org to tell us you're planning to attend.

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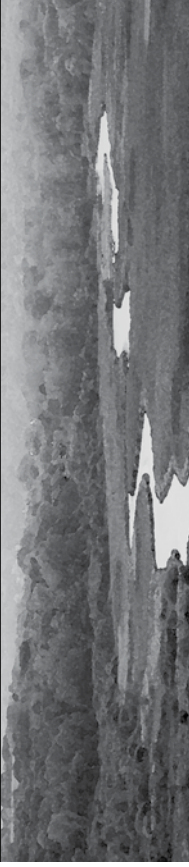
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PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY WINTER 2015-2016 EVENTS



CONNECT WITH NATURE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

JANUARY

21st - Conservancy Day Program (TBA)
23rd - Annual Meeting (page 7)

FEBRUARY

18th - Conservancy Day Program (TBA)

MARCH

17th - Conservancy Day Program (TBA)

APRIL

16th - Restoration Work Day (page 11)
21st - Conservancy Day Program (TBA)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.pheasantbranch.org

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Renew your membership, order phenology calendar or RSVP for our annual meeting... details inside!