



The Friends of  
Pheasant Branch  
Conservancy



## Fall 2022 Newsletter

### Metro Market Donates to FOPBC

*By Lois Sater, Board Member and  
Development and Marketing  
Committee Chair*

On July 15, 2022, Roundy's President Michael Marx presented the Friends with a check for \$2500 as part of the celebration of the Middleton Pick 'n Save becoming Metro Market. Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc., (Roundy's) is a leading grocer in the Midwest.

Founded in Milwaukee in 1872, Roundy's operates over 150 retail grocery stores in Wisconsin and Illinois.

"The Conservancy is a natural choice given the location of Metro Market and its importance to the community," said Mr. Marx. Attending the "Re-Grand Opening" to receive the check were Co-Presidents Hans Hilbert and Pam Shannon and Development & Marketing Committee members Lisa Quam and Lois Sater.



**Friends of Pheasant Branch representatives with Roundy's President Michael Marx**

### PBC wins "Best of Madison 2022" Award for Running/ Biking Trail

*By Pete Witucki, Board Vice  
President, Accessibility & Use  
Committee Chair, Prairie Chase  
Race Director*



The Pheasant Branch Conservancy has been awarded the "Best Running/Biking Trail" in the Best of Madison 2022 Readers' Poll! We're thrilled that so many in our community recognize the value of the Conservancy. It is indeed among the best places in the area to recreate.

The Friends realize that a certain tension exists between the various uses and purposes of the Conservancy. A core purpose is in the name "conservancy" - a place for conservation where protection of threatened species and

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The Friends of  
Pheasant Branch  
Conservancy

## Our Board

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Warshauer, Deb Weitzel, Ken  
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### Photos

Gary Sater, Gail Smith, Michael  
Knapstein, Mike Gibson, Chris  
Kubiak, Colleen Robinson, Alan  
Haney, Pete Witucki, John Daly

### Newsletter Editor

Stefanie Brouwer

### Design/Layout

Chris Kubiak

## From the Co-Presidents

We hope you are enjoying these lovely early autumn days in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy, which was recognized for having the “Best Biking/Hiking Trail” in the 2022 Best of Madison awards. Prairie Chase 2022 was a resounding success despite the rainy weather and the newly-opened Middleton Metro Market recognized the importance of the Conservancy with a donation.

The past summer was an exciting time for our staff, committee members and volunteers. The Restoration and Management Committee focused on removal of invasive wetland plants, as well as prairie maintenance at Bock Forest. In this issue, long-time Restoration and Management Committee volunteer and board member Emil Haney is remembered for his outstanding contributions to the Conservancy. The Accessibility and Use Committee continued to provide opportunities for individuals with memory challenges to enjoy the Conservancy, including two “Make a Memory” events. The Education Committee focused on programming for all age groups including training a new cohort of Master Naturalists and partnering with Olbrich Botanical Gardens on a Butterfly Action Day for young children. The Conservancy will again become an outdoor classroom this fall as 8th graders learn about hydrology and watershed health. Be sure to visit pheasantbranch.org for a full calendar of upcoming volunteer and educational events.

Refurbishment of the informational kiosks throughout the Conservancy is now complete, and Dane County Parks recently installed a new kiosk in the parking lot overlooking the Platinum Prairie Addition. Each kiosk includes a panel curated by the Friends about the Conservancy.

Due to ongoing concerns about indoor gatherings and Covid-19, we have reluctantly determined that our 2023 Annual Meeting will once again be virtual. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 7, 2023 and watch for additional details about what we have planned.

Looking ahead to 2023, our Board of Directors will see some turnover due to expiring terms. Serving on the Board is a wonderful way to become more involved with the Friends, as is being a member of one of our committees. While we work to maintain a diverse array of backgrounds and skills, we are especially seeking those with experience in graphic design, marketing, and networking with members and the community. If you think this sounds like you, send us an email at copresidents@pheasantbranch.org to be considered for a position on the Board or to serve on a committee.

See you on the trails,

*Pam Shannon & Hans Hilbert*

Pam & Hans

Co-Presidents  
copresidents@pheasantbranch.org



# Prairie Chase 2022 Success

By Pete Witucki, *Prairie Chase Race Director, Board Vice President, Accessibility and Use Committee Chair*

Rain and cooler temps did little to dampen runners' enthusiasm at the 8th annual Prairie Chase Run/Walk on June 25th! The 5K runners and walkers enjoyed a tour of the Conservancy on the main limestone path with the prairie in full early-summer bloom. Meanwhile, All-Terrain 10K runners explored some of the less frequented corners of the Conservancy as they earned spectacular views after climbing grueling hills. Congratulations to all of our participants, including 5K winners Jeff Butterworth (17:41) and Nineveh O'Connell (21:28) and 10K winners Taryn Shank (42:02) and John Cole (37:56). Thanks to Movin' Shoes and In Focus Timing for donating timing services.



## 2022 Prairie Chase gets underway

We had our first full post-race party since 2019, with coffee and snacks from EVP Coffee, Hubbard Avenue Bakery, Willy Street Co-op, and FOPBC volunteer cookie bakers while enjoying live Irish music from the Currach Irish Trio.

This year's run coincided with National Pollinator Week and new race sponsor, Agrecol Native Plant Nursery, helped us celebrate by

donating pollinator plants for each participant and as prizes for the winners!

Prairie Chase is an important fundraiser for the Friends - the sold-out event helped raise over \$5000 - but we are especially proud of our continued efforts to grow awareness of the Friends in the running community. Nearly 20% of our participants joined the Friends or made additional donations to support our work.

Mark your calendars for next year's race on June 24, 2023! Join us to run, walk, or as a volunteer. Our website is [www.prairiechase.com](http://www.prairiechase.com). We have an incredible team of dedicated volunteers who make this event a success year after year. See you on the trail!

## Membership/Donation Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level:

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

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

### Volunteer Opportunities:

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

### Additional Giving Opportunities

- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted - use where needed most
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Glen & Joan Pulver Education Endowment
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Restoration Endowment
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Seed the Need

### Send this membership form and payment to:

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

For charitable IRA donations or legacy giving, please use our legal name, PO Box address and Tax ID# 39-1838491

# Tribute to Emil Haney

By Martha Frey,  
Membership Volunteer

Emil Haney devoted the last 16 years of his life to land stewardship at Pheasant Branch Conservancy through his involvement with the Restoration and Management Committee (R&M) and the Bock Community Gardens. A new plaque memorializes Emil Haney as the Bock Garden's "Guiding Spirit." Throughout his retirement years, cut short by sudden death in 2019, Emil worked hard to restore prairie and woodlands. According to former Friends' Board President Jim O'Brien, "Emil not only oversaw projects; he took a hands-on role in them." Susan Gruber, former R&M Committee Chair, remembers Emil as an incredible mentor. "We both had a passion for the outdoors. I learned so much from him. Emil was patient. I would ask him questions and he would respond with precise answers.

## Growing Up in Ohio

Emil grew up in southern Ohio, the oldest of three children. At the age of 4, Emil asked his mother if he could have a garden. Brother Alan remembers Emil being interested in learning the names of plants at a young age. Emil earned his Bachelor of Science degree in soil science at Ohio State University where he met his future wife Wava. They married in 1964.

## Making a Life in Wisconsin

Wava and Emil both went on to earn Ph.D.'s at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His degree was in agricultural and applied

economics with an emphasis in natural resources economics and her's was in sociology. Both became tenured professors and served as college administrators on campuses in the UW system. Emil and Wava were a team that worked together on many projects.



**Emil and Wava Haney, known for their teamwork, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014**

During his career, Emil was on the faculty of the UW-Green Bay and the UW Colleges at the Richland campus and had research-related appointments in a program at UW-Madison. He taught a range of introductory economics theory courses, as well as upper-level courses in natural resource economics and community development. In these courses, he brought to bear his academic and practical learning as well as knowledge gleaned from a Fulbright appointment in Mexico and joint research appointments with Wava in Colombia and Ecuador. They occasionally team taught a course.

## Working with the Friends

After Emil retired, he and Wava moved to Middleton to be closer to

their daughter. They chose to reside at Woodcreek Village where many of the founders of the Friends lived. They often joined Dane County Naturalist Wayne Pauly and college student interns for restoration work in the Conservancy. In 2003, the Friends took on a daunting project - raising \$3 million to purchase the 19-acre parcel on Highland Way. Along with many others in Woodcreek, Emil and Wava jumped in to help, invited supportive friends to the fundraising events, and worked to make it a successful campaign.

Emil Haney served as Vice-President of the Friends in 2005 and 2006. Emil rejoined the Board in 2011 for two terms as a regular member. He also served as one of the Bock Forest Restoration reps in 2015 and 2016. Emil and Wava researched the Frederick's Farm Homestead site together, collected records and photos, and interviewed adult children of the Frederick's Family.

## Bock Community Garden

For many years, Emil played a major role in the development of the Bock Community Garden as a member of the Coordinating Committee. Emil was the "go to gardener" for anyone who had questions about almost any aspect of gardening. He and Wava shared a position that involved oversight of all the common areas, such as the orchard, the nursery, and the prairie. In addition, in collaboration with Adaptive Restoration LLC, they organized and helped to lead work sessions in the Conservancy prairie to weed and collect seeds.

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# YOU Can Help Citizen Science in the Conservancy!

*By Deb Weitzel, Board member and Education Committee Chair*

Important monitoring of bird species in the Conservancy is being done regularly by a team led by Master Naturalists. This data, collected in eBird online, is used to inform planning and decisions about planting, management and restoration efforts, particularly since the expansion of the prairie parcel to incorporate the Acker Farm acquisition.

However, the data collected by this team is only a portion of the useful data, much of which is collected in eBird from reporting by individuals who record the birds they identify anytime they are in the Conservancy. eBird is a free online program with apps for iOS and Android devices. Anyone can set up a personal account for free, which allows them to make lists of birds seen or heard in any location at any time. ALL data is of great value!! A record from ANY birder, beginner to expert, is useful. A free program and other materials to learn how to get and use eBird is available at [www.ebird.org/about](http://www.ebird.org/about).

There are millions of eBird users worldwide, and all their data has been used for extremely important research, including the many species of concern and mitigation efforts. Any eBirder is asked to simply record any species they can identify, so even novice birders' entries are SO IMPORTANT as they document the presence of common birds, which are the true indicators of overall bird population issues.

Please consider becoming an eBirder! It's easy and fun, with great information at hand to increase your own enjoyment as you spend time in the Conservancy. For questions or help please contact Deb Turski [DLTurski@gmail.com](mailto:DLTurski@gmail.com).

# Make a Memory Programs – Summer 2022

*By John Daly, Education Committee member*

**“It does not matter why you go to nature – just that you get there. And stay awhile.”**

*Kate Bast, certified Forest Bathing Therapist*

Since 2018 the Education Committee of the Friends has hosted sensory-oriented sessions for older adults, designed for individuals with cognitive challenges and limited mobility and their care givers. They are called “Make a Memory Days” and have been supported by grants from Bader Philanthropies Inc. and the Foundation for Dane County Parks.

The pandemic interrupted these annual programs at Orchid Heights Park and in the Conservancy, but it



did not halt the on-going planning and refinement of these unique experiences. Key components have included:

- Building a comfort level and basic knowledge of the Conservancy so participants can return on their own
- Designing each program as an age-appropriate, authentic learning experience
- Collaborating with community partners
- Emphasizing the health benefits of being in nature

During the 2022 summer months, the “Make a Memory” program theme was the healing power of nature. The Education Committee hosted two events.

Music and Nature (Wednesday, July 27th) . . . Prior to the pandemic, the Education Committee invited our community partners who work directly with those with cognitive challenges and their care givers to a “Make a Memory Day” focused on brain health. This summer the “Music in Nature” program engaged the participants in recognized music meant to activate the brain through well-known songs.

The Artesians (a local acoustic string instrument duet) and Ingrid Gruett (a certified music therapist) provided a constant flow of music that invited those present to sing along. The program was designed based on evidence that music therapy practices provide support

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## Board Member Bio: Gary Sater

*By Stefanie Brouwer, Friends member and Newsletter Editor*

Gary Sater joined the Friend's board in 2021 after serving for 3 years as co-chair of the Restoration and Management Committee. He continues to serve as committee co-chair. Gary is a talented photographer, videographer and creator of drone images.



Gary is a retired clinical and sport psychologist. He is a founding partner for Mental Health Solutions (clinical practice) and sole proprietor of Solutions for Performance, LLC (sport psychology practice.) He coordinated and provided clinical and performance psychology services for the UW Athletics program for 20 years. In his early career, he served as a school psychologist for the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District. Gary served 3 terms on the Urban League of Greater Madison Board of Directors and continues to serve on the Fond Blanc Foundation Board (Haitian orphanage and school.) He is married to Lois Sater, board member and chair of the Development and Marketing Committee.

## Hydrology of the Conservancy for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

*By Cayla Matte,  
Friends' Education Coordinator*

Environmental education has always been a key component of the Friends' mission and purpose, with the Conservancy serving as a unique outdoor laboratory. The pandemic created some difficulties with this, but after coming off a school year filled with trials and tribulations, the upcoming school year is filled with the promise of excited students returning to the Conservancy. This fall our efforts will expand to a new grade level and new lesson plan development, all thanks to a recent participant in this year's WI Master Naturalist class: Maria Pittner. Maria is a 8th Grade Science teacher at Kromrey Middle School, and as a student of the WIMN class, she partnered with the Friends' Education Coordinator to create a new field trip as her capstone project.

Over the course of two days in October, 8th grade students will participate in a variety of hands-on activities to complement their classroom hydrology lessons. The students will take a guided hike to the Frederick's Springs area to learn about natural processes and why this area is so important to the larger watershed that leads to the Yahara Chain of Lakes in Dane County. Students will collect prairie flower seeds and expand upon their 6th grade rain garden efforts in order to emphasize why native plants are critical for watershed health and

water retention over invasive plant species. Students will also engage in infiltration tests to compare water filtration rates at different land use areas. Finally, students will participate in a water consumption activity to demonstrate the management of water resources.



**Bubbling springs at Pheasant Branch Conservancy**

Ultimately the Education Committee looks forward to regular naturalist-led field trips occurring within the Conservancy again. This will improve student education in the environmental sciences and foster continued engagement in the years ahead. We anticipate an ongoing relationship with the 8th grade classes to continue to promote the Conservancy as an ecological learning tool.

# Frog & Toad Survey 2022

*Chris Kubiak, Board member and Frog & Toad Survey Coordinator*

After an online kickoff event in March, our first publicly supported frog & toad survey successfully concluded in early August, thanks to the support of ~20 community volunteers who graciously donated many evenings to survey. Our goals for the survey were to continue assessing frog and toad populations and provide a new opportunity for community engagement.

Our survey covered 8 sites around the Conservancy, up from the 6 sites last year, thanks to the support of our new volunteers. The areas monitored spanned from the northern edge of the expanded prairie along Balzer Road and extended to Orchid Heights Park, a new location for 2022.

## Observations

Despite an increase in rainfall during spring and early summer, we observed less water overall in most target sites compared to 2021, with many sites dry for most of the season. Re-profiling of the terrain and reduction in agricultural activity in the expanded part of the Conservancy appeared to decrease run-off from the north and left visibly cleaner water at wet sites. The net effect being populations more concentrated to areas that remained wet with a majority of calls observed at just a few sites.

In total, we recorded 7 different species in 2022: Boreal Chorus Frog, Wood Frog, Pickerel Frog, American Toad, Gray Tree Frog, Cope's Gray Tree Frog, and Green

Frog. New was the Green Frog, in part due to the addition of the Orchid Heights survey, but it was also observed for the first time in an existing site. We speculate this is due to cleaner or lack of upstream water contributions.



**Tree frog visiting the Friends' equipment trailer**

One puzzling observation was at our other new survey site, added due to heavy tree frog activity in 2021 – Despite similar water levels, we observed virtually no calls by any species this year. Observations such as these motivate us to continue surveying in 2023, expanding our understanding of these populations and the impacts of our restoration efforts.

In addition to the appreciation for our committed community volunteers who steadfastly monitored our sites even though many were quiet, special thanks to long time Friends' supporter Janet Kane who dutifully compiled our survey data throughout the season, and Susan Gruber who endured the deep brush with me to monitor our more ecologically sensitive sites.

If you are interested in participating in survey activities with the Friends, please watch our website for news about future citizen/community science opportunities.

## Best of Madison

*Continued from page 1*

restoration of important ecosystems is paramount. However, our excellent trail network – showcased by the Best of Madison award – draws runners, cyclists, hikers, dog walkers, photographers, bird watchers, families, and more. It would be fair to argue that these two mandates - conservation and recreation - are in conflict and could be incompatible with each other. Indeed, the Friends have often asserted that “the Conservancy is not a “park” in defense of our conservation mission.

Yet appropriate, respectful recreation within the Conservancy represents an opportunity for the Friends and our mission. Visiting cyclists and runners fall in love with the Conservancy and become members and volunteers. Young families here for a picnic or a hike bring along the next generation of ecologists and natural resource managers. For some students, a field trip to the Conservancy may be one of their first encounters with “nature.” Few of us would be such ardent advocates for the Conservancy without our own personal experiences of recreating or volunteering within it. The Accessibility and Use Committee works to mitigate user conflict and to make the Conservancy accessible to all in the community.

We thank the Best of Madison Readers' Poll for this award and welcome all new visitors and future members of the Friends.

# Restoration and Management

*By Gary Sater, Board Member and Restoration and Management (R&M) Co-Chair*

Very soon we will be asking for volunteers to help us collect late summer and early fall seeds within the county and Bock Forest portions of the Conservancy. If you are interested continue to check your email and our website for dates and times. A small group from R&M collected fringe brome grass and dark green bulrush seeds earlier this month and cotton grass seeds were collected by our interns late summer.

The Friends are also sponsoring monarch tagging this year. Again, if interested go to our website at [pheasantbranch.org](http://pheasantbranch.org) and register

for this family friendly event. You may have noticed the county has installed the kiosk in the new addition to the Conservancy. The Friends have also already begun to post our information in that kiosk.

Beginning September 1, R&M will be asking all volunteers to sign a newly-designed waiver form. The intent is to improve the process by which we collect these waivers and track them digitally. R&M has also recently reached out to Dane County Parks in an effort to coordinate closely with them in our volunteer process. All that we do in the county portion of the Conservancy is under the auspices of Dane County Parks and our intention is to continue this cooperative and close relationship going forward. Please be patient with us by signing a new waiver form, even if you have signed one in the past.



**Drone photo of work in the Conservancy**

On July 27th a large work group was assembled by Rob Schubert to remove and treat invasives in the wetlands. Groups participating included Prairie Partners, Quercus and Operation Fresh Start (OFS). Not only was this effort hugely successful in removal of invasives, but it also provided a valuable opportunity for the OFS students to have direct contact and conversations with professional

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# Friends Partner w/Olbrich Gardens for Butterfly Action Day

*By Cayla Matte, Friend's Education Coordinator*

On July 29th, after a three-year hiatus, the Olbrich Botanical Gardens invited the Friends to partake in the Butterfly Action Day event for their "Blooming Butterflies" exhibit. Always a popular attraction, the exhibit drew in over 1,000 attendees! Several organizations in attendance were each tasked with providing an activity that taught kids about the butterfly life cycle, monarch



**Photo courtesy Mike Gibson – Olbrich Botanical Gardens**

migration or pollinator/plant relationships. This year, the Education Committee decided to put together a tissue paper flower activity in order to increase awareness of the importance of butterfly gardens. Several committee members and volunteer naturalists helped each child make their own unique colored flower.

They were then given a butterfly sticker to place within the petals to represent the butterfly pollinating the flower. The children learned that butterflies play a vital role in pollination for the flowers within their own gardens (and the Conservancy). Liquid nectar is the primary food source for adult butterflies, so kids were encouraged to plant flowers at home with their families as a take-home lesson. The activity was well received and many kids were glowing in happiness to carry their own "butterfly pollinated" flower. Volunteers were delighted to see so many smiling faces. The Friends look forward to participating in the event in the coming years as well as continuing to support butterfly conservation in Dane County!



# Another Wisconsin Master Naturalist Cohort is on Hand!

By Colleen Robinson, Friends' Wisconsin Master Naturalist Coordinator

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy's Wisconsin Master Naturalist course team was beyond elated to host another in person class this year. Our thanks to the amazing state program staff, compassionate participants, and flexible speakers who are always such good sports for us. This summer is extra busy for everyone as we all create and adjust to new normals, so plenty of pivots were required in coordinating the experience. Overall, it was a great success.

Fourteen participants wholeheartedly engaged in lectures, hands-on activities, and indoor and outdoor time in pleasant and not-so-pleasant weather. We took a fresh new look at ways renewable energy options are supported in our community, citizen science opportunities, and worked with a new partner, the Clean Lakes Alliance, for some of our lake section information. Several strong foundational sessions returned this year too, including geology and water quality/flood mitigation at Devil's Lake State Park, water quality monitoring at Black Earth Creek, and plenty of time in the Conservancy learning about ecological restoration efforts, management challenges, plant ID, soils, land protection, and programming.

Our participants ranged in age from young professionals to



## 2022 WI Master Natural Class

retired individuals and they joined us from nearby locations as well as from hours away in the Fox Valley and a few places between. Participant projects inspired our teaching team and fellow classmates. We enjoyed learning about how one couple planned and implemented a prairie and kestrel banding education program on their property for children and adults. Others tackled important social aspects of connecting with our natural world, including land acknowledgments and efforts to create space and better communication about opportunities for people in under-represented communities in natural resources. Citizen science projects geared specifically toward beginners to foster enthusiasm and "wins," and structural projects for supporting budding or struggling volunteer organizations in their neighborhoods were included too.

This year's group did not shy away from the technical details and also maintained a keen awareness of the need for education, inclusion, and accessibility surrounding the topics they were digging into in class. That was especially heartening to witness and support and I can't wait to see what more these volunteers will do in the Conservancy and beyond!

## Make a Memory

*Continued from page 5*

and decrease anxiety, isolation and pain. Naturalists and members of the Education Committee also facilitated learning sessions at several exploratory tables. There were approximately forty-five participants at Orchid Heights Park.

Mindful Outdoors and Forest Bathing Experiences (Tuesday, August 30th) . . . the Education Committee planned the second "Make a Memory Day" for this summer for individuals with mobility challenges and all older adults. Two skilled guides led sensory experiences in the concepts of mindfulness outdoor and forest bathing. This allowed the individuals to access the cognitive and physical health benefits of being in nature. The expert guides included Colleen Robinson and Kate Bast.

Research shows that time in nature increases our creativity and focus, and softens rumination, anxiety, and depression. It is also lowers pulse rate and blood pressure, decreases stress hormones, increases natural killer cell response, improves immune function—and more. The positive effects last several days.

The Education Committee wishes to acknowledge Bader Philanthropies Inc. and the Foundation for Dane County Parks. The support we have received from these grant sources has allowed the Friends to do effective environmental programming for previously underserved adult populations from 2017 to the present day.

## Conservancy Days

Conservancy Days occur on odd months, 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM. See our website for registration and location.

### **Gary Sater – Utilizing Drone Imaging in Natural Lands Restoration and Management**

Wednesday September 21st  
At Middleton Public Library –  
Register here <https://www.midlibrary.org/EventDetail?ID=21377>

### **Glen Stanosz – Fantastic Fungi**

Wednesday November 16th  
At Middleton Public Library

## FUN (Friends of Urban Nature)

FUN events occur on the 4th Saturdays of the month, 1:30-3:00 PM. No need to register. Location is 4864 Pheasant Branch Rd parking lot.

### **Marjorie Rhine – Insect Super-Powers**

Saturday September 24th

**TBD**  
Saturday October 22nd

### **Paul Noeldner – Creek Nature Hike**

Saturday November 26th

## ALL-IN Program

**Walking Through Deep History: An Archaeological Tour of the Conservancy with Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Archaeologist with the Wisconsin State Historical Society**  
Tuesday Oct. 11th 8:30-10:00 AM

**Grassland Bird Event**  
Rescheduling underway

## Restoration

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Conservancy employees. A Facebook posting, including drone photos and a video of this event is on the Friends Facebook page. Check it out!

A “thank you” luncheon for our Prairie Partner interns was held at Lupe’s Taqueria on August 10th. All 5 interns were from UW-Madison this year. It was another very successful summer for the interns working with our land manager Rob Schubert and Susan Gruber from R&M. Thank you to all who were part of this program.

Work continues with the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant within the county and city portions of the wetlands. We continue to remove and manage invasive cattails and reed canary grass among other invasive species in our wetlands. Before and after drone images are impressive in documenting the progress already achieved. The sandhill cranes appreciate the more open and healthy wetlands, as indicated by their more frequent appearance in these areas.

R&M also continues to work more closely with the city in restoring and managing these portions of the Conservancy and we appreciate our growing relationship in this teamwork.

The redesign and rebuilding of the Frederick’s Springs access structures continues to held up by the DNR’s planning approval process. We hope to receive approval soon, since we started work on this project with Dane County Parks months ago. If you’ve

recently visited the Springs you may have noticed how successfully the vegetation has regrown where the steel mesh was pulled out. We appreciate your continued cooperation in not approaching the Springs beyond the barriers installed to facilitate this regrowth. It will help our efforts a lot!

Lastly, the Propagation Garden will receive a perimeter edging soon to help manage the invasive grasses that require so much of our time for their removal. Thank you, Dane County Parks, for collaborating with the Friends and R&M in making this happen and assisting with the funding as well!

## Chamber of Commerce Features Friends’ Display

*By Lois Sater, Board Member and Development and Marketing Committee Chair*

Pam Shannon and Lois Sater created an attractive display for the Middleton Chamber of Commerce meeting on August 4th, 2022 for their monthly “Get Moving Middleton” breakfast. The Chamber featured the nonprofit members and their informational displays at the meeting.



# Timelessness in the Conservancy

By Dale Klubertanz,  
Friends' member

**Across the evening sky,  
all the birds are leaving**

**But how can they know  
it's time for them to go?**

**Before the winter fire,  
I will still be dreaming**

**I have no thought of time**

**For who knows where  
the time goes?**

**Who knows where  
the time goes?**

*Sandy Denny*

To a passerby, prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland are still and timeless to all appearances, their transformations imperceptible. To those who come often, the petal that had greeted them during yesterday's walk may have faded, surrendering into the present moment and now there appears another in full flowering. Tomorrow's affirmation may be peeking out from inside its fostering sepal, at one with a future seamless moment. This is where the time goes, where it lives, passing but still, like a silent, invisible, assured motion; fretless and fluid.

In June, pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) first emerged from among the mixed blend of stems, leaves and buds carpeting prairie and savanna, marking the advent of early summer. It arrives with the summer solstice just as blue-purple spiderwort is at its apogee and abloom each morning. Spiderwort's blossom will fold at the approach of evening with a promise to flower again at sunrise. Wild lupine has come, as well, a

new companion to pale purple coneflower and spiderwort, briefly towering over all that is presently adorning prairie and savanna. It comes and goes without further ado, with no thought of time.

As August arrived, a coneflower cousin of pale purple coneflower has begun to color prairie and savanna and will last into autumn. This mid-summer appearance of purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) finds itself among the pink-purple bergamot, which had thoroughly filled these native plant communities through July and now is taking its leave.

Both black- and brown-eyed susan have pervaded the landscape, having enjoyed the company of the cheery bergamot amid many bright yellow, gray coneflowers, wholeleaf rosinweed and cup plants. Soon, as many of these species have receded, compass plant will take its turn high above the late season's mix of asters and goldenrods. Accordingly, time will favor a new field of lavender and gold.

Long before the month of September, big blue stem has reached the tippy-tops of heads, as visitors venture under and around the familiar turkey-footed tallgrass seedhead, along footpaths through the unhurried grasslands. In October skies, it will be hoisted to heights of 8 feet, dominant in stature and adding a maroon-tan tinge to the final stages in an annual succession of the tall grass prairie.

The emergence and passing of each of these species from month to month is an expression of relationships and rhythms worked out and agreements made within communities of native plants over

the course of over 10,000 years. Time is found in their DNA, in their receptivity to the cycle of seasons and in what they have to teach us. Perhaps their firmly rooted, re-emerging, sun-fixed memory and metaphors have something to teach us about time and where it goes.

An attentive, receptive walk through the Conservancy can often slow time to a human heartbeat, one with that of the wilderness.

## Emil Haney Tribute

*Continued from page 4*

## Memorial Funds for Restoration

A remembrance gathering for Emil was held in May at the Farley Center in Verona. Janet Kane commented at the gathering, "Now when I go to the Bock property, I still expect to see Emil in the garden or the prairie or the woodland. He'd be the first to say that many people made this possible — but all of us were encouraged, inspired, and empowered through Emil's guidance and example. The Bock prairie and adjacent woodland are part of Emil's lasting legacy. And his legacy continues to grow. Seeds purchased with Emil's memorial funds were spread after a spring woodland burn, adding new species to the understory. And in the next few years, the hayfield just north of the Bock property will be transformed into prairie, also with seeds purchased in Emil's memory." The Friends are grateful to Emil and Wava for their long-standing commitment to Pheasant Branch Conservancy.



## The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

PO Box 628242  
Middleton, WI 53562

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## Calendar of Events

### September

- 21 Conservancy Day: Utilizing Drone Imaging in Natural Lands Restoration and Management
- 24 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): Insect Super-Powers

### October

- 9 Bock Forest Seed Collection
- 11 All-In Program: Walking Through Deep History: An Archaeological Tour of the Conservancy
- 17 Board of Directors Meeting
- 20 Conservancy Day: Evening with PBC Herptiles
- 22 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): TBD

### November

- 16 Conservancy Day: Fantastic Fungi
- 21 Board of Directors Meeting
- 26 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): Creek Nature Hike