



# Fall 2023 Newsletter

## City of Middleton Completes Repairs to Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor

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

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, the City of  
Middleton and Dane County  
celebrated the completion of the  
repairs to the Pheasant Branch  
Creek Corridor that was damaged

during the severe flooding in  
August 2018. The flood demolished  
sections of the trail and bridges  
which caused closures for periods  
of time for repair of six bridges,  
rerouting of the stream in places,  
several landslide clean-ups and  
stream embankment restorations.  
The rebuilding plan was to make  
the corridor more resilient during  
high water events in the future. All  
the bridges are now elevated to be  
able to withstand a 200-year flood  
event and have concrete  
abutments.

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**Middleton Mayor Emily Kuhn and  
representatives from the Friends**



**Fall burn at Pheasant Branch  
Conservancy**

## The Importance of Fall Burning

*By Rob Schubert, Land Manager*

In early October, following a warm  
and dry period of late Summer, the  
prairies may be set to light. At this  
point in the year many of the early  
emerging species have long gone  
dormant. Pasque flowers and  
shooting stars showed off their  
flowering brilliance and slipped  
back beneath the earth to wait

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The Friends of  
Pheasant Branch  
Conservancy

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Kubiak, Gary Sater, Gail Smith,  
WIMN program

**Newsletter Editor**  
Pam Shannon

**Design/Layout**  
Chris Kubiak



## From the Co-Presidents

We hope you are enjoying time in the Conservancy as fall progresses.

We want to thank all of you who attended our celebration of the 20th anniversary of Shannon Prairie on a warm, sunny afternoon in late September. Please read about it and enjoy some photos in our article on page 9.

Some other items of note:

### Fall Fundraising Campaign

In early November, members will receive our fall fundraising and membership renewal letter. Your membership dues are the primary source of revenue that supports our work. Beyond dues, any additional contributions you choose to make enable us to do even more to protect and preserve the natural beauty of Pheasant Branch Conservancy and its watershed.

### 2024 Annual Meeting

After surveying our members, we are returning to an “in-person” Annual Meeting at Holy Wisdom Monastery on the morning of Saturday, January 6, 2024. Doors will open at 8:00 and we will wrap up mid-morning. A virtual option will also be available for those unable to attend in-person. A plentiful continental breakfast will be served. The agenda will include a report on the Board’s finances and plans for the coming year, election of Board members, and a guest speaker.

Later in the fall, watch for an e-mail with more meeting details and RSVP information. For now, please mark your calendars for January 6, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

### 2024 Celebration of Platinum Prairie

When conditions are optimal this winter, Dane County Parks staff will seed the final quadrant of the Platinum Prairie at the former Acker farm. Members of the Friends have generously contributed funds to allow for the purchase of a high quality seed mixture that will become one of the most diverse prairies in the state.

We will work with Dane County Parks to schedule a celebration of the conversion to prairie for late Spring or early Summer 2024 when we have a reasonable chance of good weather. Watch for further information on our website: pheasantbranch.org. We hope you will join us for the celebration of this glorious addition to Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

As always, we invite you to contact us with questions & suggestions at [copresidents@pheasantbranch.org](mailto:copresidents@pheasantbranch.org).

We hope to see you on the trails.

Pam & Hans  
Co-Presidents



# Restoration & Management Committee Update

*By Gary Sater, Board Member and Co-Chair, Restoration and Management Committee*

It's been a busy fall for restoration and management work in the Conservancy. We're continuing to remove invasive buckthorn and



**Invasive tree removal along the southeast corridor trail**

honeysuckle between the southeast corridor trail and Pheasant Branch Marsh in the City portion of the Conservancy, in collaboration with the City of Middleton.

Our R&M volunteers and Dane County Parks staff have improved the gravel trail leading up Pheasant Branch Hill and the steps leading down to the Springs. Grading the trail up the hill and the gravel base improvements are necessary to reduce erosion during rain events.

The propagation garden continues to be an important project in establishing more difficult-to-source native plants for use throughout the Conservancy in diversifying our flora population. Our Land Manager, Rob Schubert, and R&M member, Susan Gruber, along with a committed crew of volunteers, continue to care for this valuable resource. The work includes the use of cold frame boxes to start the seeds and protect the plants before transplanting them.

Once again, the Prairie Partners summer intern program was highly successful. A group of paid interns, all UW-Madison students this year, accomplished a great deal of restoration work and proclaimed the Conservancy as their favorite work site, due largely to the education and support offered by Rob Schubert and Susan Gruber.



**Taking a break and planning for work at the Homestead Site**

*Continued on page 9*

## 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

**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

# What Do Ground-Nesting Birds Need?

By Janet Kane, Member, Restoration & Management Committee

The PBC Bird Monitoring Program completed its 4th year in September. The program focuses on ten target species that nested in Pheasant Branch prairies in the past, but noticeably declined from 2010 to 2019. The Friends worked with concerned birders and Dane County Parks to implement three changes to benefit these ground-nesting birds: 1) publicizing and enforcing dog leash requirements, 2) reducing habitat fragmentation by closing grassy trails, and 3) posting signs alongside prairies about nesting habitat. In the first year, Pheasant Branch Hill and the prairies to the west were monitored. In subsequent years, monitoring included the new Acker property to the north. Year-to-year comparisons use eBird's "average count", that is, the average number of birds seen on checklists that detected the species.



Vesper Sparrow



Bobolink

**Surprise!** Monitors noticed Bobolinks on the Acker property last year, and noticed many more this year, with their singing, aerial displays, and nesting activities. Early July mowing may have caused some disruption, but juveniles were seen on site a few weeks later. Initially Bobolinks weren't a target species because of few records from 2010-2019, but they were added this year.

**Nesting Vesper Sparrows!** Vesper Sparrows are rarely seen at PBC, but in 2023 at least one Vesper Sparrow pair successfully nested on the Acker property.

**Eastern Meadowlark gains.** The 2023 average of 3.56 was the highest since 2010.

**Dickcissel and Savannah Sparrow.** None were reported in the restored prairies in 2020, but many showed up at the Acker property in 2021, spreading out into the established prairie in 2022 and continuing with high averages in 2023- 8.92 for Dickcissels and 5.92 for Savannah Sparrows.

**Sedge Wrens and Willow Flycatchers.** Although these species had declined over the last decade, they still were regularly seen in the PBC prairies. In 2021 numbers were down, probably because a prolonged late winter storm in the southeast affected these late spring migrants. This year, Sedge Wrens averaged 2.68 and Willow Flycatchers averaged 3.64, a little lower than in 2022, but higher than in most years from 2010-2019.

**3 More Sparrow Species.** Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow occasionally stopped by during migration, but didn't stay to nest.

**Conclusion.** This generally good news supports the 2019 changes – publicizing leash requirements, minimizing habitat fragmentation, and posting informational signs. It also reflects the general finding that larger spaces serve more birds and more species of birds than an equivalent area of separated fragments. We're looking forward to the 5th year of monitoring and learning more about sustaining ground-nesting species impacted by habitat loss.



# We're Looking for a Few Good Members

*by Carl Sinderbrand, Board Member and Chair, Governance Committee*

Among the joys of being a member of the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy is the opportunity to participate as a member of the Board of Directors and its several committees. Serving on the Board or a committee allows one to collaborate with other knowledgeable, interesting Friends members with diverse skills and expertise and common interests; to learn more about our precious natural resources; and to actively help preserve and maintain the Conservancy.

For 2024, we will have several vacancies on both our Board and several of our committees. For the Board, we are looking for candidates with varying experience, which may include natural resources sciences,

financial management, communications, information technology, fundraising, advocacy, and community involvement. The Board meets monthly and Board members are expected to participate in and perhaps chair one of our committees.

Our committees also reflect the diversity of experience that it takes to manage the FOPBC. The committees are described in detail on the Friends website, and include the following:

**Education:** Working with the school district, City of Middleton and Dane County to provide hands-on educational experiences and programs for children and adults, including those with physical or other challenges.

**Development and Marketing:** Communicating with members, collaborating with governments, organizations and the general public about Friends events and programs; organizing fundraising activities.

**Watershed:** Engaging in data collection, studies, and advocacy relating to the health of the Pheasant Branch Watershed, including evaluating impacts associated with neighboring development.

**Restoration and Management:** Planning and leading hands-on work activities in the Conservancy, including seed collection, brush cutting, removal of invasive plants, and seeding in newly restored prairie areas.

**Accessibility and Use:** Planning and implementing activities to maximize access to the Conservancy, including programs for people with mobility, sight, hearing and other physical challenges.

If interested in these positions, please let us know by email at: [copresidents@pheasantbranch.org](mailto:copresidents@pheasantbranch.org). And welcome to one of the best experiences you will ever have.

# 2024 Phenology Calendar Available for Purchase

*By Lexy Dorzweiler, Office Manager*

Are you looking to hang beautiful photos of your favorite Conservancy in your home or office? A holiday gift for friends and family? Support the work of the Friends by purchasing our 2024 Phenology Calendar. The calendar is a partnership between the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy and Middleton High School. MHS photography students, led by teacher Holly Stoenner, take

pictures in the Conservancy after learning the techniques of nature photography. Their photographs are entered into a contest. Professional photographers act as judges and award prizes for first, second and third place. The photographs are then available for publication in our annual phenology calendar.

Each month includes "look for" lists of phenological events, such as emerging flora, wildlife and calls. These lists are from previous FOPBC phenology calendars designed by Andrea Gargas, PhD, Symbiology, LLC.



Calendars cost \$15.00 a piece including shipping and may be ordered on our website: [pheasantbranch.org/phenology](http://pheasantbranch.org/phenology)

# Redtail Ridge Development Leads to Pheasant Branch Conservancy

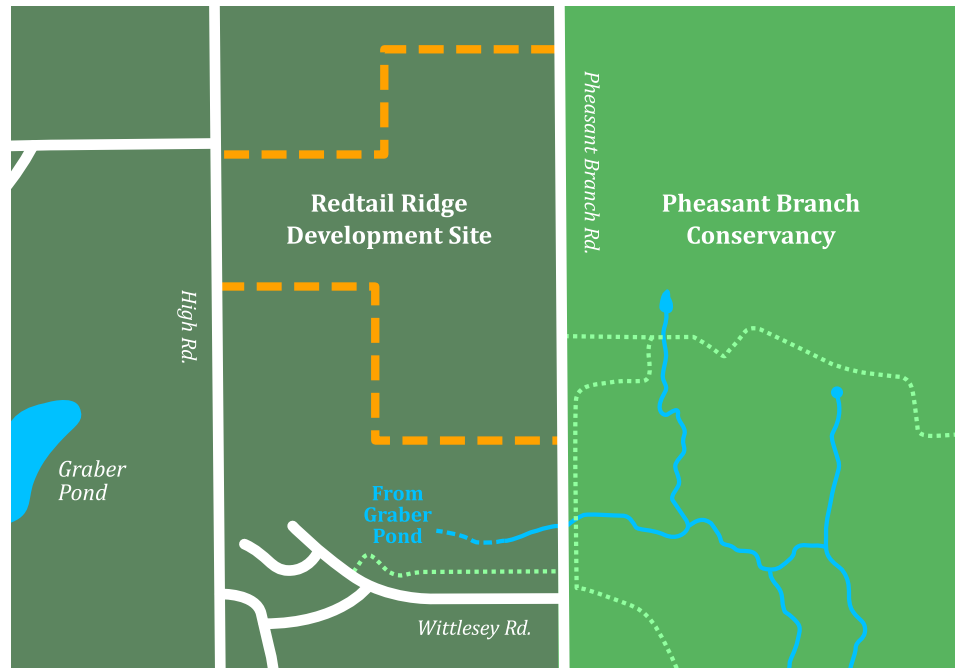
By Hans Hilbert, Board Co-President and Member, Watershed Committee

For the first time in over two decades, subdivision development has begun on property adjacent to the Conservancy, and while separated by a roadway, the stormwater runoff from the developing subdivision could have downstream impacts.

The Redtail Ridge development is planned to include over 850 new homes on the former agricultural area expanding the City of Middleton border to the north between High Road and Pheasant Branch Road. While some runoff will continue to drain east and into the Conservancy prairies, the majority of runoff is being directed west and south, where it will join additional surface runoff before entering the lowland wetland and a Western Tributary and then flowing directly into the Conservancy via a culvert under Pheasant Branch Road.

A healthy wetland ideally acts as a sponge and absorbs water. The runoff is slowed down which reduces erosion and keeps nutrients available for use by vegetation. Unfortunately, this wetland is already burdened by failed upstream stormwater management west of High Road and increased runoff when Graber Pond overtops its western bank.

For many years the Friends have partnered with the DNR's Aquatic



Map of Redtail Ridge development relative to Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Invasive Species program, putting hundreds of thousands of dollars toward the removal of invasive species, and in particular hybrid cattails, from Pheasant Branch Marsh. Our work has continued from north to south, as much of this investment has been made where this Western Tributary enters the Conservancy.

With the water comes pollutants. The Redtail Ridge developer has proposed several measures to mitigate the potential impacts on the Conservancy, many of which were the result of working together with the Friends and the City early in the planning for the project. Compared to the preliminary stormwater plan, the approved plan implements some “low impact development” (LID) strategies which favor treating smaller amounts of runoff higher up in the watershed rather than large regional stormwater features. LID looks good on paper, but there is more that is needed. The

development, and its future residents, must consider their individual actions. Care must be taken to landscape with native species, to drain downspouts to rain gardens, and to limit the amount of impervious surfaces to allow rain and snow to be absorbed into the earth and recharge our groundwater. Neighborhood covenants and city ordinances could ensure that these actions are taken.

Our Watershed Committee continues to monitor developments within the Pheasant Branch Watershed, especially those with impacts on the Conservancy. We cannot stress enough the importance of slowing down runoff and treating it higher up in the watershed. Relying on already exhausted lowlands is not a solution, but keep in mind that these are the most critical areas and need support and management to protect the Conservancy.



# 2023 Wisconsin Master Naturalist Course Highlights

By Colleen Robinson, WIMN Coordinator

Offered every June, this 40-hour course covers topics from ecology to accessibility to environmental care through the lens of water. We are so grateful to the participants who engage in this course and beyond!



Along the banks of Black Earth Creek, participants learn about water quality monitoring techniques and the meaning of “bio-index.”



Nutrient cycles are essential in living systems and can be complex. Participants work together to articulate their understanding to their course-mates.



Our 2023 Wisconsin Master Naturalist Course participants on Pheasant Branch Hill with acres of the Conservancy and Pheasant Branch behind them.



Devil's Lake State Park offers our participants a tremendous setting to learn about geological history, water quality and management, and environmental interpretation in a space not far from but very different than the Conservancy.



Coming back from a “flood walk and talk” in the Pheasant Branch Corridor behind Kromrey Middle School, the power of water and importance of securing natural areas to make space for water is clearer in our minds.



At Festge County Park, in addition to an introduction to opportunities at Pheasant Branch Conservancy, participants learn about ways to engage in citizen science, landscape restoration, habitat improvements, and more throughout Dane County.



We spend at least a couple of days in the Conservancy during our course, learning about the importance of this land culturally, ecologically, economically, and as a place for learning and wellness.



Graduation day is loaded with inspiration. From participant project discussions and presentations, to certificate awards, to celebration scones and planning for making an ongoing difference.



# Conservancy Day Presentation on Revised Wolf Management Plan

By Tim Hansel, Education Coordinator

At our September Conservancy Day at the Middleton Library, Sam Jonas, Supervisor of the Wildlife Species Section in the Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Wildlife Management, discussed the DNR's 2023 draft revised wolf management plan. Many in attendance had strong opinions to share about wolf hunting.

DNR's previous wolf management plan was written in 1999, when the wolf population was estimated at 250. That plan put a cap of 350 on the wolf population and opened the door to yearly wolf "harvesting" (hunting). Many Wisconsin residents, especially up north, favor wolf hunts due to human-wolf conflicts such as cattle depredation and wolf attacks on hunting dogs.

The good news is currently, the wolf population in Wisconsin is far larger today than it was in 1999. Jonas noted that current estimates put the wolf population at around 1000 to 1200 and that the management plan would aim to keep the wolf population near that number. Jonas stated that the population is healthy enough for the animals to be "delisted" (taken off the endangered or threatened species list in Wisconsin).

The bad news, for many in attendance, is that delisting means that, once again, there will

be a wolf hunting season in Wisconsin. The last wolf hunt in Wisconsin was in February 2021 when DNR set a quota of 119, but hunters took 218 before the season was shut down. Gray wolves were added back to the endangered species list in 2022 by a federal judge and that put a halt to the hunt.

Many of the questions and comments after Jonas' presentation were from audience members who opposed wolf hunting in general or the specific methods used in hunting wolves. Several people brought up the use of dogs in wolf hunts as a particularly troubling practice.

Jonas informed the attendees that if or when wolves are delisted, the DNR must allow a hunt. This is due to a 2011 state law that mandates wolf hunting. Furthermore, not only must hunters be allowed to hunt wolves, but they must also be allowed to use dogs. This makes Wisconsin the only state to allow the use of dogs in wolf hunts.

Though passions were high, the discussion remained civil, and many expressed appreciation for Jonas' willingness to discuss these issues with members of the public. The wolf management plan is still being debated and is scheduled to be presented to the Natural Resources Board on Oct. 24-25.

Our final Conservancy Days talk of 2023 will be on Wednesday, November 15, when naturalist Wayne Pauly will discuss prairie plant lore. Please register for this free presentation at [midlibrary.org/events](https://midlibrary.org/events).

## Corridor Restoration

*Continued from page 1*

At the time of the 2018 flooding, the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy Board sprang into action to assist the City of Middleton in numerous ways. We helped keep people out of dangerous areas, organized cleanup workdays, lent scientific expertise to the preparation of disaster relief applications, interacted with the press, and conducted significant fundraising.

Specifically, our members raised more than \$90,000 through our Give More to Restore campaign. To date, we have provided about \$15,000 of those funds to the city to pay for expert consultation on the engineering of rebuilding and have designated additional funds to establish diverse natural plant communities within the creek corridor.

Middleton Mayor Emily Kuhn and Dane County Executive Joe Parisi invited the community to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the enhanced Pheasant Branch Creek Corridor, noting that its restoration was a collaborative effort of the city and county, the state, our federal partners, and of course, the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy.



# Shannon Prairie 20th Anniversary Celebration

By Hans Hilbert and Pam Shannon,  
Co-Presidents



**Pam Shannon and Hans Hilbert  
address attendees**

One of the season's highlights was the 20th anniversary celebration of Shannon Prairie on a beautiful late September afternoon. Roughly 70 Friends joined members of the Shannon family from around the country at the Homestead Site to pay tribute to Dorothy Shannon and other founders and early supporters of the Conservancy. Rob Schubert, our county land manager, and Tom Bernthal, a past president and member of the Restoration & Management Committee, gave an informative and entertaining talk about the history and current state of Shannon Prairie, followed by a guided walk to the prairie. This anniversary gave us the occasion to survey the prairie and, as a result, we plan to over-seed areas during winter to increase plant diversity.

We invite you to view a marvelous new video about Dorothy Shannon and the evolution of Shannon Prairie, produced by Dale Klubertanz and Gary Sater. The video is available for viewing on our website.



**Attendees gathering at the Prairie**

Thanks to Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and Middleton Mayor Emily Kuhn for their remarks and to the Middleton Alders and County and City staff who attended and supported the event. We are grateful for our fellow Board members and staff who attended and assisted and for the stalwart team of volunteers who constructed and deconstructed a 20 x 30' tent at the Homestead Site to shelter us from the 87-degree autumn afternoon. None of us are ready to join the circus at this time!



**Drone photo of the event site**

## Restoration and Management

*Continued from page 3*

This program continues to be a valuable training ground for the interns and for assisting R&M in getting important, if sometimes difficult, work done in the Conservancy.



**Cattail removal in the wetlands  
with Operation Fresh Start crew**

Rob Schubert led a "Super Workday" event at which a number of land restoration professionals worked alongside and instructed Operation Fresh Start students in removing invasive cattails in the wetlands south of the Homestead Site and Shannon Prairie.

Our fall workdays continue on Saturdays and Sundays, with options for volunteers to help remove invasives or collect seeds. Please sign up by using the events calendar at [pheasantbranch.org](http://pheasantbranch.org). We are so thankful for all who volunteer their time and labor for this important work. We've accomplished much together and our beautiful Conservancy is living proof of this work over the years.

# Upcoming Education Events

## Conservancy Days

Please see [pheasantbranch.org](http://pheasantbranch.org) for event registration info.

### **Wayne Pauly – Spring Flowers & Folklore**

*Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM  
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.

### **“A Natural Thanksgiving” with Paul Noeldner**

*Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>*

### **“Winter Solstice Walk” with Kathlean Wolf**

*Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>*

## Fall Burning

*Continued from page 1*

again for the coming of Spring. The more precocious prairie grasses such as sideoats grama and prairie dropseed have completed their seed production and are going into dormancy.

What is still green are those species that are often the most troublesome: Indiangrass, leafy spurge, Canada goldenrod, brambles, buckthorn, and honeysuckle. Now is the time to light the torch!

Our prairies and savannas in the past were well accustomed to Fall burning. Fires intentionally started by native peoples would consume whatever grass and leaves were dry enough to burn. Fires would often burn for weeks, stopping only at rivers and where the woods were too shady and damp.

Despite late Summer and Fall having been the most frequent season for historic burning, current prescribed burning is too often restricted to Spring. Some of this results from expectation. Unfortunately, the success of a prescribed burn is often judged by its ‘completeness’. In the Spring, the standing stalks of last year’s growth are readily consumed to ash.

Smoke management is also problematic. Fall burning often means that plants still retain a lot of moisture in their stems which can increase the volume of smoke produced during fall burning. As our region gets more developed and our dwindling natural areas become surrounded by roads and housing development, smoke management is becoming an

increasingly important aspect of prescribed fire operations.

Fall burning often requires more specific conditions than what is required for burning in the Spring. To burn prairies and savannas in Autumn may require having more accumulated oak leaves or more of the native bunch grasses such as prairie dropseed and little bluestem present. The exotic cool season grasses such as smooth brome and coarse forbs such as Canada goldenrod may be more easily set to light in the Spring.

And, despite having a longer time conducive to Fall burning (September through December), not every year brings favorable conditions. Conditions for Spring burning are more consistently reliable. Though our work is focused on the natural world and tied to the rhythm of the seasons, so too is our work tied to timelines and annual budgets.

So, while not everywhere may be suitable or appropriate for Fall burning, I prefer to favor it where I can. The reasons are many; it was historically the most common time of year for burning, it better controls invasive brush and other undesirable species, it well prepares an area for seeding, early flowering species such as pasque flower and shooting star have gone dormant, and the risk of impacting amphibians and reptiles is reduced.

If conditions have allowed, a Fall burn will have occurred at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy by the time this has gone to print. I hope it has happened; I look forward to scattering prairie seed across newly burned ground and counting pasque flowers in the still cool days of early Spring.



# Prairie Chase & Trails Day 2023 – A Celebration of Trails

*By Peter Witucki, Board Vice-President and Chair, Accessibility and Use Committee, and John Daly, Education Committee Member*

The Friends hosted a day-long celebration of Trails on June 24th, featuring the 9th annual Prairie Chase Run/Walk and the 2nd annual Conservancy Trails Day.



## 2023 Prairie Chase gets underway

The Prairie Chase has long been an important fundraiser for the Friends – raising over \$8,000 this year – but the event also represents a key outreach tool for raising awareness of our work within the active recreation community. Many Conservancy visitors are attracted to the trails as a safe and rejuvenating place to exercise; Pheasant Branch Conservancy was recognized as “2022 Best of Madison: Running/Biking Trail.” Converting these visitors to supporters and members of the Friends is a primary goal of the

Prairie Chase event, and we are proud that ~20% of participants add an annual membership or an additional gift to their race registration!

Despite the warm weather on race day, the run/walk was a success with 276 participants crossing the finish lines of the 5K and 10K routes. After their tour of the Conservancy, participants enjoyed EVP coffee, cookies from Hubbard Ave Diner, bananas from Willy Street Co-op, and live music by the Currach Irish Trio.

Mark your calendars for the 10th annual Prairie Chase on June 22, 2024! [www.prairiechase.com](http://www.prairiechase.com)

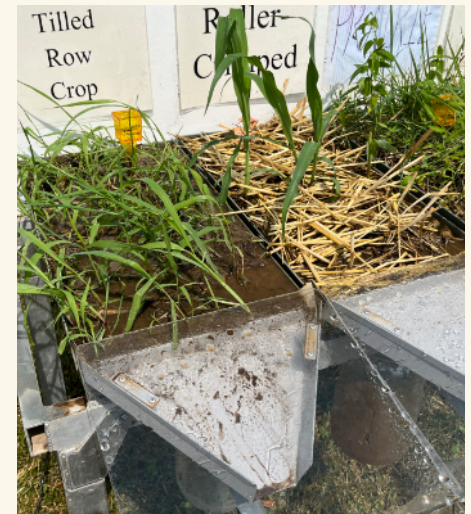
Following the Prairie Chase, the festivities continued into the afternoon with the Conservancy Trails Day co-hosted with the City of Middleton Parks & Recreation and Dane County Parks at Orchid Heights Park and throughout the open lands of the Conservancy.

National Trails Day is celebrated in June each year to recognize the benefits federal, state and local trails provide for recreation and exposure to nature. The day encourages people to discover their local trails, become active concerning trail issues, and share their excitement for the outdoors.

Inclusive, family-friendly events included: Wisconsin Kite Flying Club demonstrations, experiential education with Dane County’s Trash Lab & Rainfall Simulator, Madison Reading Project, Accessibility Wisconsin (all-terrain wheelchairs), naturalist-led hikes, face-painting, and trishaw (electric bike) rides.

It is our hope that this celebration of the outdoors will encourage

people of all ages and abilities to discover or re-discover the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and enjoy the health benefits of being outside.



## Dane County Rainfall Simulator

Events are an important way to connect the community with the Conservancy. If you are interested in getting more involved, join us as a volunteer at the Prairie Chase Run, Make-a-Memory Days, Trails Day, and other special events: [pheasantbranch.org/volunteer](http://pheasantbranch.org/volunteer)



## The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

PO Box 628242  
Middleton, WI 53562

*To sign up for a paperless  
newsletter, please email  
[office@pheasantbranch.org](mailto:office@pheasantbranch.org)*



## The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

### November

- 6 Bock Forest Seed Sowing
- 15 Conservancy Day: Spring Flowers & Folklore
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting
- 25 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): A Natural Thanksgiving

### December

- 18 Board of Directors Meeting
- 23 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): Winter Solstice Walk

### January

- 6 2024 Annual Meeting

Please see [pheasantbranch.org/events](https://pheasantbranch.org/events) for more upcoming activities!

Follow us on  
social media:



**[pheasantbranch.org](https://pheasantbranch.org)**