



Winter/Spring 2024 Newsletter

Backyard Conservancies — Go Native

By Pete Witucki, Board Vice-President and Chair, Accessibility & Use Committee

Our annual meeting in January challenged us to consider how we can expand our stewardship of Pheasant Branch Conservancy beyond the borders and into our own backyards. Conservation lands are fragmented, surrounded

by human-dominated landscapes that limit wildlife movement between protected areas. Activities adjacent to protected areas can have significant impacts on the plants and animals of conservation concern. Protecting and enhancing Pheasant Branch Conservancy requires us to also adopt a conservation ethic at home - beginning with native landscaping.

Late winter is a great time to begin planning a native garden addition or expansion. Native plants are

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Example of backyard native planting in Middleton Hills

Belle Fontaine Boulevard Update

By Ken Wiesner, Board Member and Co-Chair, Watershed Committee

Beautiful spring (or fountain) is one translation of “Belle Fontaine” from French. Locally, it was the name given to what we now call Frederick’s Springs, or Pheasant Branch Springs, in the Conservancy. These springs have enhanced human habitation in what is now Middleton for thousands of years.

New residential development centered on Belle Fontaine Boulevard will pose challenges to maintaining the quality and quantity of spring flow. Reduced infiltration of rainwater due to compacted soils and impervious surfaces, increased pumping of groundwater for new residents, and possible overflows of polluted stormwater are of concern.

Early European settlers were drawn to the area, already occupied by Ho-Chunk Indians, as an

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Pheasant Branch
Conservancy

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From the Co-Presidents

Thanks to all who attended the Friends' Annual Meeting on January 6. Over 120 members joined us in person, along with nearly a dozen attending virtually. As always, Holy Wisdom Monastery provided great hospitality. Susan Carpenter, native plant garden curator at the UW Arboretum, spoke about fostering resilient gardens and landscapes using native plants. Read about backyard conservancies on page 1.

We elected four able and enthusiastic new board members: Chris Kehler, Janice Kehler, Paul Ludden and Liz Stanley. We are eager to involve them in our work and utilize their many talents. They are profiled on pages 4 & 5.

We said farewell to two longstanding board members, Lois Sater and Mark Warshauer, both of whom will be missed. Lois chaired our Development & Marketing Committee for a number of years and Mark served on the Restoration & Management and Finance Committees and as Board Secretary. We wish them well in the future and expect they will continue to contribute in other ways with the Friends.

To better keep members and the community informed, we are excited to be forming a partnership with Pilch+Barnet, a Madison-based marketing firm, for a range of services including graphic design, website management, communications, and social media engagement. We relish the prospect of having expert assistance in these areas, which will allow us to keep our focus on the Conservancy as we continue to attract awareness to our organization.

We are currently planning a spring celebration of the completion of seeding the 160-acre Platinum Prairie on the former Acker property. We hope you'll join us to mark this significant accomplishment. A save-the-date and additional plans are forthcoming.

As always, we invite you to contact us with questions & suggestions at copresidents@pheasantbranch.org.

We hope to see you on the trails.

Pam & Hans
Co-Presidents



Prairie Partner Internship Update

By Rob Schubert, Land Manager

An important part of my role as Land Manager has been providing guidance and mentorship to the Prairie Partner Intern crew each summer. Since 2017, this has contributed to the rhythm of the annual work cycle at the Conservancy, and much has been accomplished through the efforts of past interns. Some past work is readily apparent, but evidence of other efforts is less obvious. Aspen logs in old drainage ditches are reminders of chainsaw safety training on warm August days.

This year will be the first season my role as Land Manager has not included the Prairie Partners. In Fall of 2023, the decision was made to end the Prairie Partner Internship Program. Multiple partner organizations felt it

important to re-evaluate their needs. In 2024, planning will be focused on resurrecting the intern program in an improved and sustainable manner. The past structure was no longer viable as it was.



This has prompted consideration about how to get done the work that the crew does at the Conservancy, from mowing reed canary grass, hand pulling wild

parsnip, collecting seeds, and caging turtle nests. Much of this work can be done by volunteers or by contractors. What is not as easily replaced are the intangible aspects of the internship experience.

Despite its many rewards, conservation is a difficult field in which to work. Harder, often, is getting started. Perpetually underfunded, the conservation field is not able to create enough jobs to match the demand for the work needed. The result is often high competition for a limited number of jobs.

My own experience involved beginning my career during the Great Recession; the government jobs I was hoping for disappeared and opportunities were limited. The current climate (at least locally) is far better. Increased wages and growing conservation efforts mean more opportunities for young professionals

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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
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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

Board Roster Update for 2024

In addition to several incumbents continuing on the second year of their 2-year term, the following incumbents have been elected to an additional 2-year term to the Friends' Board of Directors – Hans Hilbert, Jim Moe, Gary Sater, Pam Shannon, Deb Weitzel, and Ken Wiesner.

Several new board members have joined the roster for 2024. We wish a warm welcome to Chris, Liz, Paul, and Janice!

Chris Kehler, M.D.



Chris has lived in Middleton since 2017, moving from the Twin Cities with his wife, Janice, to live closer to their son and daughter. Since moving to Middleton their family has grown to include three grandchildren – the center of their universe.

In his professional career Chris was an Associate Professor of Medicine (Anesthesiology) at the University of Manitoba and University of Minnesota, retiring in 2013 after 32 years of practice. The opportunity to teach in the operating room and classroom was the most enjoyable

and rewarding part of his job. After retirement, he shifted gears to a passion that Chris kept on the back burner while working and raising a family – music. When Chris is not chasing his grand kids around, he's usually going over musical charts and practicing with his jazz band, The Subterranean Jazz Project.

Janice and Chris feel very fortunate to live less than a mile from the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and they take full advantage of all that it has to offer. They became aware of the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy shortly after moving to Middleton, and have participated in a variety of volunteer activities over the past six years including seed collection, invasive species removal, water sampling, brush burning, propagation garden maintenance, path repair and even monarch butterfly tagging with their three-year-old grandson! Jan and Chris understand the need for people to help implement all of the functions of the Friends and are looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Liz Stanley



Liz Stanley is graduate of Middleton High School and the University of Wisconsin- Madison working in

Health Care Information Systems at UW Health. In this role she is a change advocate acting as a liaison between clinical operational stakeholders and administrative leaders leading development of the electronic medical record.

Liz grew up off Enchanted Valley Road on a small family hobby farm. She comes from a family passionate about nature and has spent many years alongside her father learning about conservation converting their land back to native prairie. In addition, they have a small beekeeping hobby operation and are passionate about supporting pollinators.

Liz is new to the North Lake neighborhood and the joy of living on the Conservancy but has a longstanding love and respect for the Conservancy. She is actively engaged in many facets of the community and dedicated to making a positive impact. As caretaker of a sibling with special needs she is particularly passionate about advocacy and inclusion. She has been actively involved in MyTeam Triumph, an organization that pairs able bodied athletes with non-able-bodied athletes, and as the former chapter president was able to demonstrate leadership and skills in fostering unity and inclusion. In addition, she has been involved in supporting the fight against Type 1 diabetes locally supporting fundraising and educational awareness initiatives sitting on the JDRF Gala Board and actively participating in the JDRF Bike Ride to Cure Diabetes. Liz has extensive experience in fundraising, networking and development of nonprofit organizations. She has supported the work of the Dane County Rape & Crisis Board, Riding

on Insulin, and local animal rescue organizations. In her spare time, you will most likely find her alongside her partner outside chasing their two foster “fail” pups or active young son.

Paul Ludden



Paul Ludden was born and raised in Nebraska and moved to Wisconsin for his graduate work, during which time he met his wife Linda, a native of Monroe, WI. In addition to his lab work while a graduate student, Paul participated in field work in a project that established the rates of biological nitrogen fixation in a number of WI lakes.

Following his graduate work, he held faculty positions at UW Madison, UC Berkeley and SMU in Dallas. While at UW, he served as director of the graduate program in Biochemistry and, for a time, as Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. While at Berkeley, he served as Dean of the College of Natural Resources, overseeing several departments including the department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management. Several field stations in CNR focused on forestry, rangeland and agriculture. As Provost at SMU, he oversaw all

academic programs of the University.

Paul has served on the scientific and advisory boards of a number of biotech companies and chaired the panel for the GRE exam in his area. Paul’s wife Linda, a nurse, is active in volunteer work. Upon Paul’s retirement from SMU in 2020, they returned to Wisconsin. Paul walks in Pheasant Branch Conservancy every day possible and enjoys photographing this treasure. He completed Master Naturalist training in the Summer of 2023 and has been an active member of the Education Committee.

Janice Kehler



Janice has lived in Middleton since 2017 after retiring from 30 years working as a physiotherapist in Canada and the US. She has also worked in academic settings and has been involved in basic science, clinical research, and quality improvement initiatives.

In 2006, Janice completed a Master’s Degree in Journalism, which ignited a passion for combining scientific evidence with individual stories. She has co-authored scientific articles, edited professional newsletters, and

published essays in various media outlets. Recently, she completed a memoir on the history of the Olympic Games by way of her personal journey as an Olympic hopeful. Besides writing, Janice loves hiking, biking, downhill skiing, Tai Chi, and bringing her three grandchildren to Pheasant Branch Conservancy to watch the “bubbling Sands.”

Volunteering with the Friends has been the best part of her retirement, and Janice is grateful to have an opportunity to participate in building a sustainable and wondrous future for the Conservancy.

Backyard Conservancies

Continued from page 1

adapted to local conditions, requiring less fertilizer and watering than introduced ornamentals. Pollinators will thank you too, as they have evolved with native flowering plants and are co-dependent. And, as we know from our experiences in PBC, native plants have a full spectrum of color and bloom times with four-season appeal to challenge any ornamental. After establishing a native plant garden or adding native plants to your landscape, you'll have a new appreciation when you start to recognize your plants out in the Conservancy!

Dane County's Plant Dane program is one of the best ways to Go Native.

The program is open for orders through March 19th, with native seedlings available to Dane County residents at a discounted price. They have helpful guides for finding the best options for your sun and soil conditions and planting tips. Order pickup is on May 18th, just in time for spring planting. Learn more about the program and place your order at: ripple-effects.com/Plant-Dane

Are you an apartment or condo dweller, without an opportunity to influence landscaping at your residence? Many municipalities allow residents to adopt a street median or traffic circle, or to manage a flower bed in a city park. These are great places to cultivate native plants, improving resilience and supporting native food webs.

Dane County has a program for free native plants for school and community projects and your municipality may have funding available for these projects as well. Reach out to your municipality if you want to adopt-a-garden or contact the Friends if you want help taking the next steps!

Throughout 2024, the Friends will continue to explore this concept of Backyard Conservancies, exploring topics including native plants, invasive species, lawns, rain gardens, and more. Reach out to us if you have questions about how to get started or if you are an experienced native gardener with advice to share. And follow along for more Backyard Conservancy information and events at: pheasantbranch.org/backyard

FOPBC Endowment Funds

By Jim Moe, Board Member and Treasurer

The Friends have two endowment funds to aid in securing and enhancing the organization's financial strength for the future. The Glen and Joan Pulver Education Fund was initially funded by the Pulver family in 2006 to support environmental educational programs in the community. The Restoration and Management Fund was established in 2014 to support prairie restoration in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

All funds are held at Madison Community Foundation (MCF) and

managed for long-term growth primarily through funds that apply investment criteria to select companies that meet certain environmental, social and governmental practice standards.

As of December 31, 2023, the funds were valued at \$133,574 and \$163,661, respectively.

These funds have been generously supported by directed gifts from community members that have allowed MCF to make grants to the Friends for specific purposes as needed. MCF determines the amounts available for granting each year based on investment performance and year-end balances to ensure the long-term viability of the endowments.

Donations to either fund can be made to MCF through a variety of options, including direct cash payments, gifts of appreciated stocks, IRA qualified charitable distributions, estate bequests and charitable gift annuities. If you would like to help to ensure the future of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy by making a gift to one of the endowment funds, please visit the MCF website at madisongives.org or contact an MCF officer at 608-242-1763.

County Parks Planning for 2024-2029

By Stefanie Brouwer, Friends Member

Dane County Parks is in the process of updating its Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) for the next 5 years ~ 2024-2029. The plan is a comprehensive document that provides a common county-wide vision for park, recreation, and resource protection initiatives and a 'check-in' opportunity for Dane County Parks to interact with partners, the public and stakeholders. Public input is important and will help shape the plan update. Dates for public information meetings will be announced by the end of February. In the meantime, the public can complete the survey until May 1, 2024 at danecountyparks.com/openspaceplan.

The Friends have a close working relationship with Dane County. They worked together on the acquisition, planning and on-going restoration of the Acker farm. In



addition, they collaborate on restoration and management, accessibility and use, trail events and interpretation and signage. The county owns and manages 80% of the Conservancy north of Century Avenue (255 acres county-owned; 60 WDNR-owned) and manages the DNR acreage as well. However, the county recognizes that the properties it owns belong to all of us and they give the Friends wide-ranging ability to steward the land.

The POSP updating process is important because Dane County is the second fastest growing county in the state and Dane County Parks is the largest metro county park

system in the state. County parks host over 4 million visitors annually and manage over 18,000 acres of land that include 25 recreation parks, 20 wildlife areas, 14 natural resource areas, 4 historical or cultural sites, 2 forests, over 100 miles of trails (bike, equestrian, and cross-country ski,) over 3,000 acres of conservation and streambank easements, 5 campgrounds, and the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

Updates to the plan include identifying recreational needs, population and demographic trends, and significant natural, cultural, and historical resources to be considered for protection. The 65+ resident age group is increasing at the fastest rate, while the 0-4 age group is decreasing. Currently the top uses in the county system include walking, dog-oriented activity, swimming, running, hiking, and biking. Use of county parks and natural resource areas increased significantly during the pandemic, with 2021 showing the highest use levels ever recorded. Those high usage levels continue to grow today.

Prairie Partner Internship

Continued from page 1

establishing careers. Still, getting started is not always easy.

This initial first step into conservation work is what the Prairie Partners internship has provided. This is something the program has done well. Upper-level college students have gained training and mentorship before entering the job market. Many

former Prairie Partner interns have gone on to do impressive things and I have had the privilege to continue to work with several former interns.

I hope the Prairie Partner internship program will be re-established in 2025. There are challenges to making that happen: new partnerships will need to be formed; conversations will need to be had; and changes to the program will need to be made. My hope is that this endeavor will provide an

opportunity to improve the program that has meant so much for so many young people and has contributed not only to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy but also many other conservation efforts. Building a conservation culture requires many things including land protection, effective policies, environmental education, and an engaged public. Training and equipping dedicate conservation professionals is essential to the effort.

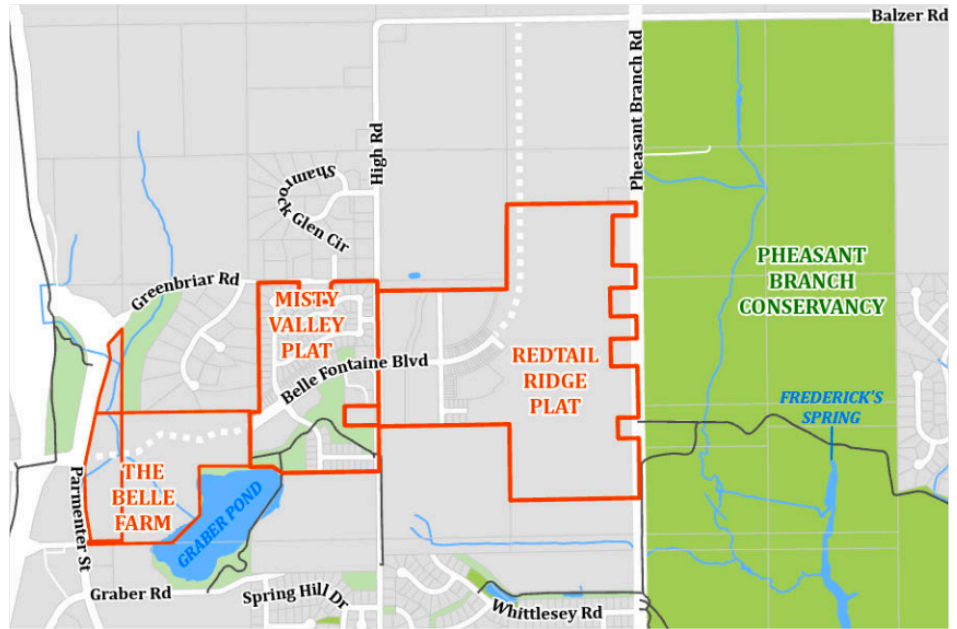
Belle Fontaine

Continued from page 1

excellent stopping point on the U.S. Military Road between Green Bay and Prairie du Chien prior to Wisconsin statehood. A notable early settler in our area was Michel St. Cyr of French Canadian and Ho-Chunk parentage. He and other area traders lent French names to local lakes and landscape features, like Belle Fontaine. For more information, see Middleton Area Historical Society Newsletter, June 2015, no. 164.

Pheasant Branch Springs continue to be an important local resource, contributing over 1.5 million gallons per day of clear cool water to Lake Mendota, and supporting abundant plant and wildlife communities in the Conservancy. The Springs are an important place for education about the watershed, hydrology, human history, plants, and wildlife. The Springs area is one of the most popular destinations for visitors to the Conservancy in all seasons. Visit the pheasantbranch.org/listening-trail for more information.

Belle Fontaine Boulevard is prominent on the City of Middleton Comprehensive Plan Road Network Map as a minor arterial roadway running between Hwy. Q and Parmenter Street. The boulevard will run on the same route as Balzer Road along the north boundary of the Conservancy. Starting at the Parmenter Street junction with Schneider Road, the new boulevard is currently being constructed to the east and will become the central route through the new Belle Farm residential and commercial neighborhood.



Housing developments in Middleton relative to Pheasant Branch Conservancy

For more information see the Wisconsin State Journal article of 1/18/24 “This Middleton development will rely on geothermal, solar for energy” by Emilie Heidemann. The boulevard will connect to an existing section in the Misty Valley subdivision constructed ca. 2005, reaching High Road. A new section of the boulevard is being constructed east of High Road in the Redtail Ridge development, bending to the north to the current city boundary. See Friends Fall 2023 Newsletter, page 6, for more information about Redtail Ridge.

According to the City Comprehensive Plan map, it is envisioned that Belle Fontaine Blvd. will eventually be completed one-half mile north to join Balzer Road in what is now the Town of Springfield, directly west of the Conservancy. The area on either side of this road extension, totaling 140 acres, is listed as agricultural transition land, meaning it is possible that this will become another new residential settlement.

All potential new developments are in the recharge area for the Pheasant Branch Springs.

The Friends are committed to monitoring these new developments and advocating for maximum application of Low Impact Development practices focused on stormwater runoff. The Watershed Committee will make every effort to work with local governments, property developers, and new residents to protect surface waters and groundwater in our area to sustain a vibrant Conservancy and our “Belle Fontaine” for the future.

2024 Conservancy Days Begins with Bobcats

By Tim Hansel, Education Coordinator

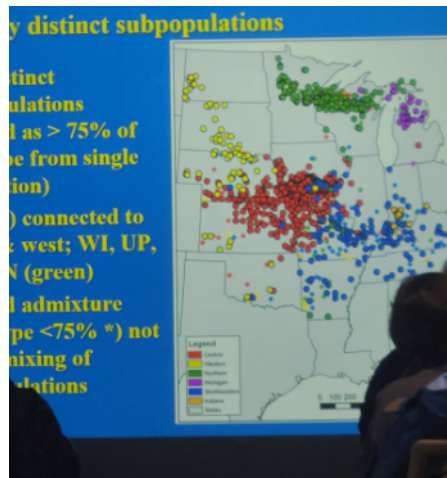
In an illuminating journey through time and territory, Professor Emeritus Dr. William Clark from Iowa State University delivered his talk at Middleton Public Library on January 18th, sharing insights into the captivating world of bobcats in North America. The first of the 2024 Conservancy Days talks proved to be a riveting exploration of the bobcats' historical range, the impact of agricultural practices, and the fascinating genetic tapestry that defines their populations.

Bobcats and the Corn Belt Conundrum

As Dr. Clark unfolded the narrative, he revealed a striking revelation from the past. As of 1970, the bobcat's range covered the entire United States, with a single exception—the corn belt. This expansive region, encompassing Iowa, southern Wisconsin, Michigan's mitten, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, was deemed unsuitable for bobcats due to intense agricultural practices that left little room for the deep brush and treefall denning preferences of these elusive creatures.



Bobcat in the wild



Population distribution map

Tracking Bobcats in Iowa: A Pioneering Study

Dr. Clark shared the pioneering work that started in Iowa, where he conducted groundbreaking research on bobcats. Using radio collars to track their movements, he enlisted the help of trappers inadvertently catching bobcats, unraveling the distribution patterns across the state. His findings showcased a concentration of bobcats in the less agriculturally intense southern regions, laying the foundation for a broader understanding of their ecology.

Wisconsin's Bobcat Landscape

Transitioning from Iowa to Wisconsin, Dr. Clark discussed population estimates gathered through bowhunter reports. Most of the Wisconsin bobcat population resides in the northern regions, isolated from other populations by the expansive Great Lakes and the formidable corn belt. Intriguingly, sightings in southwest Wisconsin signaled a potential expansion of their range, offering a glimpse into the dynamic shifts in their distribution.

Genetic Insights: Unveiling Bobcat Diversity

The culmination of Dr. Clark's talk brought forth genetic data that highlighted the distinctness of various bobcat populations. The results of years of genetic analysis were fascinating. The data show that Wisconsin and Minnesota bobcats, alongside those from the Upper Peninsula, formed a cohesive group. Meanwhile, Iowa bobcats exhibited a unique mix, with western Iowa and eastern Nebraska aligning with eastern Kansas, and eastern Iowa merging with Missouri and the southeastern United States. In time, it's possible that these groups will cross the corn belt divide in the future and begin to intermingle.



Attendees at Conservancy Day

Up Next for Conservancy Days

Our next Conservancy Days talk will be March 21st. Helen Schlimm (UW – Limnology), Herb Garn (Watershed Committee), and Rick Eilertson (Watershed Committee) will be on hand to talk to us about citizen science water monitoring opportunities in the Pheasant Branch Watershed. Register for a seat at midlibrary.org/events.

Upcoming Education Events

Conservancy Days

Conservancy Days occur on the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6 PM at the Middleton Public Library. Please see pheasantbranch.org for event registration info.

Helen Schlimm, Herb Garn, and Rick Eilertson – Citizen Science Water Monitoring in Pheasant Branch Watershed
Thursday March 21st, 6 PM
Middleton Public Library

Tim Hansel – Birding By Ear
Thursday May 16th, 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.

“Spring Equinox Walk” with Eva Roos
Saturday March 23rd

“Sounds of Spring” with Kathlean Wolf
Saturday April 27th

“ReCreate: The Magic of Feathers”
Saturday May 25th

Wonder Walks and Backpack Project

By Anne Basken, *Naturalist Volunteer*



Wonder Walk Backpack – available for local checkout

Spring is finally approaching! As we look forward to spending more time in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy, there is a resource available to enhance your experience. Six “Wonder Walk” guides have been developed around features of the Conservancy. Each has background information about the feature as well as suggested activities to increase your understanding, engagement, and enjoyment. The six guides explore: Landforms, the Springs, the Prairies, Vista View (Lookout), Water and Forest Bathing.



Wonder Walk Guide

The six “Wonder Walk” guides are available at pheasantbranch.org/wonder-walks. The guides are also included in a backpack that can be checked out at the Middleton or Waunakee libraries as well as the Middleton Senior Center. Included in the backpack are trail guides, notepads, a magnifying glass, dip net and bird identification book. The “Wonder Walks” are adaptable for all age groups and abilities. Enjoy!



Ready for adventure!

Naturalist Notebook: A Chance at Remembering in the Conservancy

By Dale Klubertanz, Friends Member

“Sometimes I feel
like a motherless child
A long way from home,
a long way from home.”

Traditional Folk Song

Once, when our tribal natures were young, the earth surrounded us with a wild intimacy pervading our essence as wilderness creatures. We knew boundlessly the dark, encompassing, star-filled nights. We made blessed the overland sun, gifting days of promise and intention inside a seamless kinship, green chlorophyll, and cell-borne mitochondria as cousins within the same extended family. Human and animal-kind shared without measure, a feeling of indivisibility and relativeness.

Now, still after years of forgetting, there is an expression of an immutable wilderness, be it the air we breathe, the wind, snowfall, rain or a renewed sense of reconnection in a restored native prairie. Its presence still beckons an abiding part of our being, long founded in these ancient forces, to reach out from and within our truest experience.

Today in winter, with a walk in the Conservancy there is a soulfulness. There is a spiritual longing in the sound of the wind, in the artistry of a snowfall, in the cool familiar frostiness against our checks. An unnamable God lives in the invisible, life-sustaining breath of air. An unknowable mystery accepts our surrender. We fall into a sense of knowing and being known in some essential way by this sleepy Conservancy landscape.



With only the vibrational rhythm of wind-blown, snow-covered surfaces sounding in the silence, the visitor has come to share this stillness of winter. The quiet fills the spaces among all that is present, asleep and otherwise. The ruffle of fabric and crunching of boots break the natural articulation of the day throughout the Conservancy.

From the fringes of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and over the grey, gradient sky, the busy hum of

human communities spills over onto the soft, muted sensibilities of the recovering native plant communities. The far-too-near treading of rubber on asphalt along nearby roadways rise and fall from beyond the surrounding farm fields, urban centers and residential neighborhoods. There is an occasional striking of steel against steel from somewhere near the city.

Thus, in the course of modern-day experience, successive generations have learned to accept a changing, diminished sense of environment as normal, healthy and as being the presumable “nature of things” within a shifting baseline. This collective perception includes the very basis of what nature and wilderness is itself, as a part of a “generational amnesia”.¹ With this “Shifting Baseline Syndrome”² comes the loss of deep knowledge and connection to our most elemental natures as part of the native motherland.

Still, there is an invitation to listen and remember in quieter “listening points”³ of the Conservancy, as places to hear a more untrammelled dialogue with the remnant voices of wilderness. This awareness of a forgotten, but still accessible wildness, can help distill from these urban conservancy lands, a conversation filled with metaphor, reflection and knowledge found in the ancient, lingering language of our wilderness selves.

¹ Kahn, P. H., Jr. & Weiss, T. (2017). The importance of children interacting with big nature. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 27(2), 7-24.

² Pauley, Daniel. (1995). Anecdotes and shifting baseline syndrome of fisheries. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 10(10):430

³ Olson, S. F. (1958). *Listening point*. Knopf.



The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

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newsletter, please email
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The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy

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March

- 16 Restoration & Management Workday
- 18 Board of Directors Meeting
- 21 Conservancy Day: Citizen Science Water Monitoring
- 23 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): Spring Equinox Walk

April

- 15 Board of Directors Meeting
- 27 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): Sounds of Spring

May

- 16 Conservancy Day: Birding by Ear
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting
- 25 Friends of Urban Nature (FUN): ReCreate: The Magic of Feathers

June

- 17 Board of Directors Meeting
- 22 Prairie Chase Run/Walk

Please see pheasantbranch.org/events for more upcoming activities!