



Madison Audubon
is your local
Audubon chapter

*Together with our
members, we work to
protect and improve
habitat for birds and
other wildlife through
land acquisition
and management,
education and
advocacy.*

Time flies when you're having fun!

Faville Grove Sanctuary turns 20

Stopping at the Marsh Overlook in mid-June, I looked down to examine an odd, knee-high grass. Porcupine grass. Whoa! A new species for the sanctuary! Twenty years after the formal establishment of Faville Grove Sanctuary, the diversity of plant and animal life continues to increase.

The day was sunny and comfortably warm, the surroundings stunning. Behind us at the overlook, a mature dry prairie restoration had put up buds for a glorious summer display-to-come of pale purple coneflower, butterfly weed, purple prairie clover, and flowering spurge. A pile of freshly dug sand and softball-sized stones registered the presence of badgers.

Before us, the short, steep slope down to the edge of Faville Marsh, once a tangle of invasive brush, was lush with prairie plants. And now porcupine grass! No mystery where this came from—we've collected the needle-sharp seed (with permission) at a nearby remnant prairie for several years, and dropped them in some of the driest moraines in the sanctuary—but it's fun and rewarding to see a new species take hold nonetheless.

At the water's edge, where a solid band of reed canary grass once held court, the last scattered clumps of the alien invader were yellowing from a recent herbicide application. We now see blue flag iris, swamp candles, tufted loosestrife, boneset, sweet-flag, arrowhead, soft-stem bulrush, and sensitive and marsh shield ferns—a diversity that brings with it a variety of dragonflies, butterflies and other welcome wildlife.

Similarly encouraging scenes unfold throughout the sanctuary as Madison Audubon heals the land, as we reconnect a fractured landscape, as we welcome species home after a century or more in exile. Give Nature half a chance and she'll flourish. Madison Audubon has given her about a chance and a half at Faville Grove for the past 20 years, as we have at Goose Pond Sanctuary for very nearly a half-century.



(See "Faville Turns 20," p. 5)

TOP: "The Marsh Overlook" oil painting captures the scenery at Faville Grove. *Original painting by Terrill Knaack*
RIGHT: This juvenile dickcissel just had a birthday too! *Photo by Phil Brown*

THE GROWTH OF A CONSERVATION SEED

Twenty years ago this summer, the Madison Audubon board of directors voted to establish a new sanctuary north of Lake Mills. The initial goal was to protect two tracts of land at Faville Grove, an area long on conservation history, but still short on conservation protection.

In the late 1930s and '40s, Aldo Leopold conducted experiments in game management at Faville Grove with Stoughton Faville and other area farmers. Along the way, Leopold succeeded in acquiring for the UW Arboretum a 60-acre tract of unplowed floodplain prairie, as land all around was being ditched, drained and plowed for agriculture.

The world's first publicly protected prairie preserve, the parcel was later dedicated as the Faville Prairie State Natural Area.

In the early '60s, Faville's grandson, Dave Tillotson, seeking to further protect the sensitive prairie, raised funds to purchase and transfer to the Arboretum 33 acres that buffered the prairie on the west, north and east. Later, when the 50 acres of drained farmland adjoining Faville Prairie to the south became available, Dave and his wife, Frances, purchased the land with the hope that the Arboretum would ultimately be able

to acquire the parcel. This never came to pass, but the situation became urgent when, in late 1996, the farmer renting the land bulldozed a swale across the field to improve the drainage, further imperiling Faville Prairie.



Meanwhile, two miles away, David Musolf and Roger Packard had begun restoring prairie and savanna on land they owned that included a high-quality wetland. In early 1997, they approached Madison Audubon, hoping to assure permanent protection of their land. Although the potential benefits of combining the two restoration efforts as a new Madison Audubon sanctuary quickly became apparent, it's

safe to say that nobody at the time imagined just how quickly the sanctuary would grow, or how dramatically successful the restoration effort would be. To date, Madison Audubon has protected 670 acres through acquisition and conservation easements and, thanks to the help of countless volunteers, has restored hundreds of acres of diverse habitat at Faville Grove Sanctuary. Cooperation with neighbors and partners brings that total to nearly 1,200 acres. What will the next 20 years bring? We can't wait to find out.

Madison Audubon is a proud member of the following organizations:



ABOVE: The history of Faville Grove echoes in every plant—like this elegant moccasin flower. *Photo by David Musolf*
 BELOW: Dragonflies are just one of the many kinds of incredible creatures you will find at Faville Grove. *Photo by Jeff Pieterick*



Growth of a sanctuary: a timeline

1997: Madison Audubon's board tours Faville Grove in June and votes to establish a sanctuary.

1998: Madison Audubon buys 50 acres from David and Frances Tillotson.

1999: Restoration of wetlands and floodplain prairie begins. In December, David Musolf and Roger Packard donate a conservation easement on 67.5 acres, creating the sanctuary's "west unit."

2001: On May 26, MAS dedicates Tillotson Prairie at Faville Grove Sanctuary. Soon thereafter, neighbor

Robert Rehm sells 140 acres adjoining Tillotson Prairie to Madison Audubon.

Musolf and Packard donate a conservation easement on 25 acres at "Faville Woods," adjacent to the sanctuary's west unit.

2002: Madison Audubon buys neighbor Jimmy Brandt's 78-acre farm, including an oak-hickory glade on a 1.8-billion-year-old quartzite outcrop.

Musolf and Packard donate a conservation easement on 30 west-unit acres.

2005: Madison Audubon acquires 27 acres, including tamarack and sphagnum bog, from

Labors of love: early restorations at Faville Grove

Some of the earliest photos from the restoration work at Faville Grove feature the Snake Marsh (2000) and Martin Prairie (2002) projects. Below left shows volunteers planting what would become the Snake Marsh, but it looks easier than it was. After earth works were completed and before planting, a large rain event turned the land to a sloppy mess, which claimed one volunteer's tennis shoe and made for slow, mucky trevailing. Below right shows the marsh in its current, glorious state.



Significant earth moving had to be done to fill deep ditches in and between fields that diverted water to the river. Below shows the heavy equipment and planting crew that helped bring Martin Prairie back to its former, pre-settlement condition.



FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

Faville Grove boasts incredible biodiversity thanks to its numerous habitat types (dry prairie, wet prairie, savanna, fen, etc.). Among the many bird species that have flourished at Faville Grove, a few have especially benefitted from Faville's remnant prairies and the restoration projects include:

- Northern harrier
- Short-eared owl
- Red-headed woodpecker
- Henslow's sparrow
- Bobolink
- Dickcissel

neighbor Burkhard Laas, and also purchases 20 acres on Highway G, including the "Snake Marsh" from David and Frances Tillotson.

2006: Madison Audubon purchases Bev and Charlie Deppe's 80-acre farm, just north of the Brandt tract and with similar habitats.

2008: Madison Audubon acquires a conservation easement on 12.5 acres of the Burkhard and Helga Laas farm.

2009: The Nature Conservancy transfers to Madison Audubon the deed for 30 acre Snapper Prairie State Natural Area—the

only other Crawfish Prairie remnant besides Faville Prairie.

2013: Madison Audubon acquires a conservation easement on an additional 14 acres of the Laas farm.

2015: Madison Audubon acquires the remaining 96 acres of the Laas' farm.

2017 and beyond: Time will tell!

Written by Doreen Pfost, volunteer



TOP & MIDDLE SETS: Work meets play when restoring a vibrant prairie. *Photos by Roger Packard and David Musolf* | LEFT: Nothing quite matches the vibrancy of an indigo bunting. *Photo by Jim Hudgins, USFWS*

FOR THE LOVE OF BIRDS

Grassland bird and waterfowl species have greatly benefitted from habitat restoration projects at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Below are species that have benefitted the most. The number in parentheses indicates number of pairs counted in 2016 by Heather Inzalaco, UW-Madison Master's student who worked with Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin.



- Mallard (93)
- Green-winged teal (4)
- Blue-winged teal (7)
- Northern shoveler (3)
- Ring-necked pheasant (28 pairs)
- Northern harrier (2)
- Sedge wren (62)
- Common yellowthroat (212)
- Clay-colored sparrow (128)
- Song sparrow (302)
- Dickcissel (23)
- Red-winged blackbird (365)
- Eastern meadowlark (46)
- American goldfinch (47)

ABOVE: Northern harrier chicks at Goose Pond have some growing up to do. *Photo by Carolyn Byers* | RIGHT: Monarchs seem to love the sweet nectar of prairie plants. *MAS Photo*

Goose Pond Sanctuary supports prairie insects

Over the course of nearly 50 years, Madison Audubon has acquired 660 acres at Goose Pond Sanctuary, restoring 400 acres of prairie and 20 acres of wetlands. Grassland bird numbers have greatly increased due to our acquisition and restoration efforts.

Now we are branching out to benefit invertebrates, particularly insects, a group that contains most of the threatened prairie-obligate species. We're working to increase their presence at Goose Pond in order to increase the biodiversity of the sanctuary and benefit these insects and their role in the ecosystem.

For the past few years we have been working with the **monarch butterfly**. We have always included milkweeds in our restorations, but we have ramped up the number and diversity of milkweeds in our mixes, as well as key nectaring plants monarchs prefer. For the past five years we have also tagged monarchs to learn more about their habits and life cycle (see page 8 for information about our tagging events this fall).

Two years ago, we discovered a large population of the state-endangered **silphium borer moths** that only live on prairie dock and compass plant. We are now managing our prairies to protect and increase this prairie-obligate invertebrate. Prescribed burning can impact borer moths so we have changed our approach to burns that comply with incidental take protocol. We are also working with the DNR to conduct research on this moth. We anticipate that in the future, other land managers may come to Goose Pond to collect silphium borer moths for introduction at their preserves.



This year, a new focus has been working with prairie violets, the host plant for the state-endangered **regal fritillary butterfly**. Historically, regal fritillaries were probably abundant on these prairies. We plan to grow the prairie violets in nursery beds and plant the seed throughout our restorations. Once the violets are restored, we will work with partners to introduce and restore a viable regal fritillary population here.

We also intend to begin supporting small leafhoppers, many of which require specific host plants. A good example is the state-endangered **red-tailed leafhopper** that only lives on prairie dropseed. Two state natural area prairies in this region provide habitat for the red-tailed leaf hopper. We surveyed five of our dry-mesic prairies and did not find any prairie leafhoppers. We are submitting paperwork to DNR to secure approval to introduce red-tailed leafhoppers to Goose Pond Sanctuary. So far, we have surveyed prairie dropseed on 2.5 acres of the Browne Prairie and estimate there are 4,500 plants in that parcel alone.

Land trust accreditation is a valuable asset to operations like ours. Accreditation will help us acquire grants to continue our work with all prairie species, and will make our organization and sanctuaries healthier and more sustainable.



Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin, resident co-managers & Maddie Dumas, land steward
goosep@madisonaudubon.org



Wingspan: A shelter emerging

We are thrilled to watch the *Wingspan* observation platform at Goose Pond Sanctuary take shape! Thank you to the dozens of donors who have shown their support for Goose Pond, Mark and Sue, and the project (see page 7 for recent donors, or madisonaudubon.org/wingspan for the full list).

To learn more and donate, visit madisonaudubon.org/wingspan. Be sure to check our blog (madisonaudubon.org/news) and our Facebook page (facebook.com/madisonaudubon) for updates.

Faville Turns 20

(Continued from p. 1)

We intend to continue giving Nature a steady helping hand at Faville Grove, Goose Pond, and elsewhere for the indefinite future. To do so, we are actively making plans, raising funds, and assuring the organizational stability to do so.

Below, you can read about Madison Audubon's efforts to achieve accreditation as a land trust through the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization dedicated to assuring that groups like ours are able to continue the critical work of protecting land in perpetuity.

Thanks to you for getting us to this point, and thanks for your help continuing the good work of protecting the natural world.



Sincerely,

Roger Packard, president
rpackard@uwalumni.com

YOU'RE INVITED!



Join us to celebrate Faville Grove's 20th birthday at a Party on the Prairie! Guided hikes through the nearby restorations, photos and throwbacks from the last 20 years, food, drinks, and the Prairie Bayou Cajun Band are all on the agenda.

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 10, 2-5 p.m.

WHERE: Prairie Lane, Faville Grove Sanctuary

Please RSVP by Sept. 6 to help us plan for food and drink.
madisonaudubon.org/events

TOP: This prairie at Faville Grove anxiously awaits your visit. *Photo by Brenna Marsicek* | LEFT: A busy bumblebee buzzes its way through a beebalm. *Photo by Arlene Koziol* | BOTTOM: Skies feel bigger over Jill's Prairie at Goose Pond Sanctuary. *Photo by Tony Abate*

The finish line is in sight!

Madison Audubon seeks land trust accreditation

In 2012, Madison Audubon made a bold decision to seek national land trust accreditation, a mark of distinction awarded to organizations meeting the highest national standards for excellence and land conservation permanence. This is no easy undertaking. Indeed, of 500+ Audubons in the U.S., there are only two that are nationally accredited land trusts. We're happy to share that Madison Audubon submits its final application for accreditation this September! A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission conducts an extensive review of an organization's policies and programs. Think of it like an audit of how a land trust does business—policies, procedures, recordkeeping, land stewardship, and so much more. We've been

working diligently to demonstrate that Madison Audubon meets these rigorous standards.

That's where you come in. The commission invites public input and accepts signed written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Madison Audubon complies with national quality standards that address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see landtrustaccreditation.org.

To learn more about accreditation and submit a comment, visit madisonaudubon.org/accreditation. Comments on Madison Audubon's application will be most useful by Nov. 6, 2017. Thanks for your help!



Getting to the heart of it

MAS education programs bring out the questions

A refreshing partnership

For its fourth summer, Madison Audubon has partnered with Operation Fresh Start to host "Conservation Academy." Youth enrolled in OFS meet weekly with Madison Audubon and guest speakers to learn about a variety of conservation-related professions and topics. Thanks for your support to make this program happen!

2017 Program:

- Electrofishing
- Goose Banding
- Prairie Restoration and Plant Identification
- Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Urban Canids
- Urban Forestry
- Job Search and Interviewing Preparation
- Retreat and Celebration



Did you know that monarch caterpillars can *only* eat milkweed? Or that honeybees build cylindrical cells out of warm beeswax that collapse to form their iconic hexagonal combs? How about that owls cannot move their eyes in their sockets?

You might not know these things, but the students at the Goodman Community Center and the Bayview Neighborhood Center sure do! This summer, I have had the pleasure of working with amazing kids at these two wonderful community centers, which are dedicated to serving diverse and often disadvantaged families living in culturally rich neighborhoods in Madison.

With the input of educators at Goodman and Bayview, Madison Audubon Society's education department developed two unique series of lesson plans for small classes of elementary school students to meet the goals and objectives of each center's summer programming. Each week, students meet with me in "Audubon Club," and with the help of on-site staff and volunteers I lead engaging classes on environmental science and Wisconsin wildlife, packed with nature

walks and hands-on activities.

I am consistently amazed by the kids I work with and how bright and thoughtful they are. One student took me by surprise one week when we were discussing ways we could help monarch butterflies and support their incredible migration, which takes them 2,000 miles south each fall. He turned to me and asked, "Why should we save the monarch butterfly? How is it important for our survival?" At such a young age, this child had asked a question that is truly at the heart of environmental conservation. Why should we protect biodiversity? Why should we protect wetlands, forests, grasslands, prairies, lakes, and rivers to provide habitat for little-known species that we do not directly depend on?

We talked about how every species has a role to play within a larger ecosystem. We talked about food webs and what might happen if we allowed one species to drop out. We talked about how the extirpation of species often has unintended consequences, how all flora and fauna are connected, and the value of having rich, thriving natural areas to explore.

After a pause in the conversation, another student chimed in, "I think we should save the monarch because it is beautiful."

I smiled, thinking that was a pretty good reason too.

Olivia

Olivia Sanderfoot, summer educator
osanderfoot@madisonaudubon.org



JOIN THE FUN!
SEPTEMBER 23

BIKE around Lake Monona, hop off at four stations along the way to search for **BIRDS**, and wrap up at Next Door Brewing Co. for a cold **BREW** or beverage! Each race kit includes a pint glass and free drink ticket.

\$20 registration before Sept. 21, or \$30 on site. Order your super-soft \$15 event t-shirt by Sept. 1!

madisonaudubon.org/bbb

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PAGE 8, OR GIVE ONLINE AT
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FALL'S SPECIAL EVENTS WITH MADISON AUDUBON

MONARCH TAGGING AT GOOSE POND
SEPT. 9 & 16 | Morning and Afternoon Sessions
Registration required at madisonaudubon.org/events

**PARTY ON THE PRAIRIE: CELEBRATING 20
YEARS OF FAVILLE GROVE SANCTUARY**
SEPT. 10 | 2-5:00 p.m. | Faville Grove Sanctuary
RSVP requested at madisonaudubon.org/events

BIRDS, BIKES, & BREWS
SEPT. 23 | 1-4:00 p.m. | Next Door Brewing Co.
Registration required at madisonaudubon.org/events

HARRY POTTER FESTIVAL—OWL POST
OCT. 20-22 | Times vary | Jefferson V.F.W.

WINGSPAN DEDICATION
Date TBD, Fall 2017 | Goose Pond Sanctuary

Learn more and/or register at
madisonaudubon.org/events

EVENINGS WITH AUDUBON SERIES

WISCONSIN'S PURPLE MARTINS with Dick
Nikolai
SEPT. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Capitol Lakes, Madison

**JAGUAR & RAINFOREST
CONSERVATION IN PANAMA** with
Alvaro Perez Cardenas
OCT. 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Goodman
Community Center, Madison

**AUTHOR PRESENTATION: "CAT
WARS"** with Peter Marra
NOV. 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Wisconsin
Institutes for Discovery, UW-
Madison Campus



ABOVE RIGHT: A purple martin chick poses for its glamour shot.
Photo by Arlene Koziol

RIGHT: Tagging monarch butterflies is fun for kids aged 1 to 92.
Photo by Michael Anderson



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Help tag monarch butterflies at Goose Pond Sanctuary!

There is nothing quite like the experience of holding a gorgeous, delicate, yet tenacious monarch butterfly. Nor is there anything quite so comical as the erratic path one takes while chasing one! We are happy to offer both of those experiences in one event for Madison Audubon members. Members are

invited to join us the morning or afternoon of Sept. 9 or 16 to learn about monarch life history, discover how to support monarchs in your own yards, and actually catch and tag monarch butterflies.

Space is limited. Registration is required at madisonaudubon.org/events