



Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance
presents this program series
with generous financial support from



All programs are on a Thursday
and begin at 6:30pm at the
Ruth Culver Community Library,
540 Water Street in
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin.

Refreshments provided.

OUR MISSION:

Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance
promotes cooperative conservation
on the Badger lands and in the
surrounding Sauk Prairie landscape.

saukprairievision.org



Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance
PO Box 403, Baraboo, WI 53913

FALL/WINTER 2019
SPRING 2020

Public Presentations
about the Sauk Prairie Area

**WE ARE
SAUK PRAIRIE**

Programs

September 19

The Apple Trees of Badger: A Project Update

Dr. Curt Meine, Co-Founder, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance & Coordinator, Badger Apple Corps Project

Since the late 1990s, it was known that the Badger property contained many historic apple trees associated with the former farmsteads on the Sauk Prairie. Over the past several years, these apple trees have been located, tagged and monitored. For three years there has been an effort to preserve these old trees by grafting small branches onto generic apple tree rootstock, thereby preserving the genetic diversity of these trees. Curt will share the 8-minute video produced by the Alliance about these apple trees and provide an update on the “Badger Apple Corps” project.

October 17

Breeding Birds of Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie: Illinois' Largest Grassland

Dr. Jim Herkert, Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie was created in 1996 on the property of the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in northeastern Illinois. The site is known to support a wide variety of birds including very large populations of several grassland birds on the site's pastures and hayfields and areas being restored to wet-prairie and sedge meadow habitats. In 2015 an experimental bison herd was established on the prairie to help learn how bison facilitate the restoration of tallgrass prairie and prairie bird habitat. Midwin, and formerly the Joliet Arsenal, is one of the most intensively monitored grassland areas in the state with annual bird surveys going back to the mid-1980s. The talk will discuss bird population trends at the site, bird response to initial restoration and research focused on the unique loggerhead shrike population on the site.

More information can be found on our website:
saukprairievision.org

November 21

Sleeping by the River's Whisper: The Archaeology of 12,000 years of Human Presence in Sauk County

Dr. George W. Christiansen, Senior Lecturer of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Baraboo/Sauk County and Director of the Center for Wisconsin Archaeology

For 12,000 years humans have lived along the Wisconsin River and its tributaries in the place that we call Sauk County. They left behind traces of their presence, some obvious, like their bas-relief sculptures that marked the burial places of their dead. Other remnants have slept silently beneath the surface of the ground. Although we think of the past as being a distinct and different place from our present, those that have come before shared the same landscape. This presentation seeks to reveal a world that is both alien and familiar at the same time by exploring the prehistory of the hunters, gatherers and horticulturalists that called Sauk County home.



December 12

How the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Came to Be

Marcy West, Executive Director, Kickapoo Valley Reserve

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve in southwest Wisconsin is an 8,600-acre ecological gem. It's story of how it came to be and how it is currently managed by a citizen's-board on behalf of the State and Ho-Chunk Nation is as unique as the property itself. What can we learn from the experience of a federal project gone wrong and an important property protected? Turns out, quite a bit. There are some similarities between the Badger project and Kickapoo Reserve.

January 16

Groundwater Flow & Modeling Contamination at Badger

Dr. Randy Hunt, Chief Science Officer, Research Hydrologist (Geology), US Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center

During our frequent tours at Badger, there is no more frequently asked question than, “Is there contamination of soil or water at Badger?” Randy's work focuses on groundwater flow and its effect on natural systems. He will share with us how computer models of groundwater can help predict the flow of contaminants in the groundwater in and outside of Badger.

February 20

Readings from and About the Sauk Prairie Area

Guest readers (to be announced at a later date)

We are diverging from our normal lecture series and focusing this evening on creative and historical writing about the region and by authors from the Sauk Prairie area. Join us for a series of readings by guest readers and even authors! You'll hear from familiar authors... August Derleth, Ken Lange, Erhart Mueller and others not so familiar.

March 19

Conservation Conversations with Representatives of the Sauk County Conservation Community.

Guest speakers to be announced. Check our website for details.

Sauk County has a very strong and dynamic conservation community. A diversity of organizations promote and undertake conservation of wildlands, wildlife, and our rich natural resources here in the county. Join us for a lively conversation by and with a selection of our area's best conservation leaders.

April 16

Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases in South-Central Wisconsin

Susan Paskewitz, Professor and Department Chair, Dept of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Paskewitz will talk about an important group of blood-sucking arthropods in Wisconsin, the deer ticks. We'll start with some fun facts and then discuss the current picture for disease risks in the state and concerns about new invasive species. Finally, the lecture will provide information about what works for personal protection and strategies that are available for controlling these pests on properties. Come with questions!

May 21

Habitat Management at the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area

Nancy Frost, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

What is happening with habitat management at the state portion of Badger—the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area since the approved Master Plan (2016)? This talk will cover the habitat management and restoration goals for the property, what has been accomplished on the 3,400-acre property since the state acquired this land, and plans and hopes for the future.