



Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid



Hickory Hairstreak

Incorporated in 1987, the Swamplovers Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Wisconsin's presettlement ecological heritage.

Working in partnership with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the Swamplovers Foundation protects and manages the 460-acre **Swamplovers Nature Preserve**, located near Cross Plains, WI, and bisected by the Table Bluff Segment of the Ice Age Trail. The Foundation's mission is to enhance species diversity and maintain the open character of prairie, wetland, oak savanna, and open oak woodland habitats in their presettlement condition.

The Swamplovers Preserve is a mesocosm of southwestern Wisconsin's presettlement biological heritage, supporting large-scale, high-quality habitat blocks of open water waterfowl breeding ponds, dry to wet prairie, southern sedge meadow, oak savanna, and open oak woodland communities along the wetland to upland continuum. This gradient of habitat diversity promotes species diversity, and the Swamplovers Preserve is a biodiversity hotspot. To date, populations of more than 1,000 indigenous species have been documented at the Preserve, 68 of which have at-risk conservation status.

The Foundation's Activities

Restoration and Management of the Swamplovers Preserve is the top fiscal priority of the Foundation and its partners. From invasive species control and prescribed burning to seed collecting and planting, the Foundation's progressive and pro-active approach to management is to blend ecological theory with on-the-ground restoration practice in the framework of an adaptive restoration strategy. An array of volunteers, professional contractors and consultants are involved in coordinating the Foundation's management efforts.

Management and Monitoring of Species of Conservation Concern. Since its inception, the Foundation, working with consultants and specialists, has documented increases in the population sizes of several conservation concern species. These data are used to adjust and expand ecological management strategies for these species.

Waterfowl Production. The Swamplovers Preserve includes dozens of acres of food plots and 22 waterfowl breeding ponds surrounded by diverse vegetation to provide nesting substrate and food for wildlife. These ponds annually produce multiple broods of ducks, geese, sand hill cranes, and other waterfowl species.

Education and Outreach Programs. The Foundation hosts a variety of events such as field trips, site tours, Girl- and Boy Scout activities, hunter safety education, ecological and archaeological research, educational activities, and technical workshops for government agencies and non-profit groups.

We need your help!

100% of your donation will directly support on-the-ground conservation and management (rather than administrative costs).

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Tax-Deductible Donation \$ _____

I would like to help with:

- ___ My tax-deductible donation
- ___ Species inventory/monitoring
- ___ Management activities
- ___ Donation of tools or equipment

Please send this form and check to:

The Swamplovers Foundation, Inc.

ATTN: Land Management Fund

5053 County Road KP

Cross Plains, WI 53528

If your group is interested in a tour of the Preserve or in a group activity, contact Lee Swanson for more information:

lee.swanson@crossplainsbank.com



Cardinal Flower



Prairie Vole

The Swamplovers Foundation,
Inc. Since 1987



Wisconsin's Ecological Heritage is in Peril!

At present, less than 1% of remnant prairie habitat, less than 0.01% of remnant oak savanna habitat, and less than 50% of wetland habitat remain in an undisturbed, remnant condition. Prairie fire suppression, invasive species encroachments, disturbances related to land-use patterns and habitat fragmentation have contributed to an alarming decline in the frequency and abundance of prairie, savanna, and wetland communities and the species they support.

Declines in the quality and extent of these imperiled communities have regional-scale ramifications, ranging from species extinctions to loss of ecosystem services such as carbon storage and water filtration.



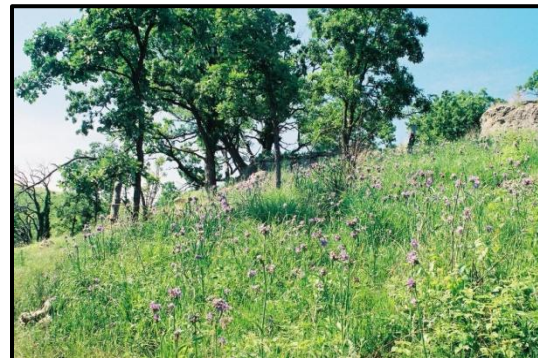
Sedge meadow/wet prairie remnant



Dry-mesic prairie remnant



Waterfowl production pond



Oak Savanna remnant



Oak Savanna Remnant



Red-Headed Woodpecker



Casey's Ladies Tresses



Sedge Meadow Remnant

Photos courtesy of Gary Nelson, Gerald Goth, and Craig Annen

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