

Selected Natural Areas in the Chicago Region, USA

Paintings of Prairie Environments By Philip Juras

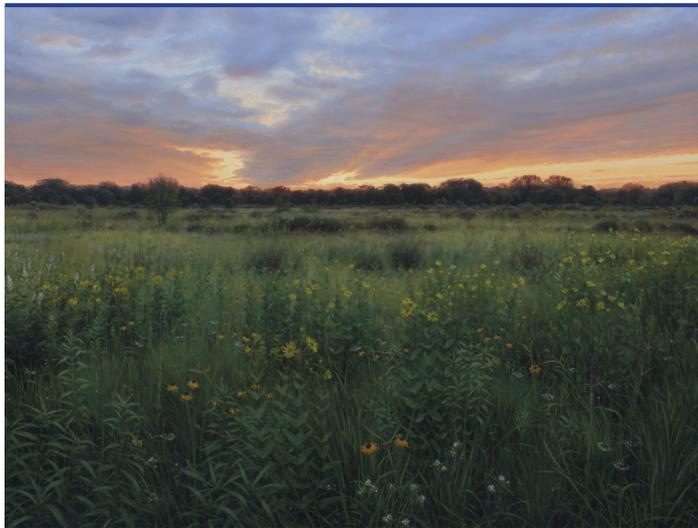
Chicago Botanic Garden & Field Museum



Authors: Philip Juras, Andrea Kramer, Joan O'Shaughnessy, and Iza Redlinski.
 Art Work: Philip Juras.
 Design: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum.

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 Indigenous Language Translations: Andrea S. Carlson

Photos: Robin Carlson (RC), Katy Chayka (KC), Michael Huft (MH), Jim Jabcon (JJ), John and Jane Balaban(JJB), Peter M. Dziuk (PD), John Hilty (JH), Philip Juras (PJ), Joan O'Shaughnessy (JO), Iza Redlinski (IR), and David Sollenberger (DS)



1 *Allium cernuum*
Nodding Wild Onion
 Makode'zhigaagaa'wanj IR



2 *Liatris spicata*
Marsh Gay Flower
 Omashkoozaanow IR



3 *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
Common Mountain Mint
 Namewaakons PD



4 *Rudbeckia hirta*
Black-eyed Susan
 — JJB



5 *Silphium integrifolium*
Rosinweed
 — JJB



6 *Spirea alba*
Meadowsweet
 — IR



Title: Chiwaukee Prairie
Details: Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 in., 2019
Location: Chiwaukee Prairie, Kenosha County, Wisconsin
Plant Community: Wet to Dry-Mesic Prairie
Description: More than 400 plant species grow in the 410 acres of Chiwaukee prairie. The diversity is partially a response to abrupt gradation from wet prairie to mesic and dry-mesic prairies, a characteristic of the dune and swale topography formed with the lowering, in stages, of glacial Lake Chicago. This has resulted in wet and dry conditions in close proximity. The wet swales, rich in calcium minerals, support some species, called "calciphiles", that only grow in such a mineral-rich environment. Dry-mesic prairies occupy the former beach dunes.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for *Chiwaukee Prairie*

This painting records the last few moments of a July day when a dull, overcast sky finally gave way to a sunset worthy of complementing Chiwaukee's spectacular remnant prairie flora.

Even in the dimming light the patterns of wet swales and low ridges could be discerned by the various textures and colors in the incredibly diverse vegetation.

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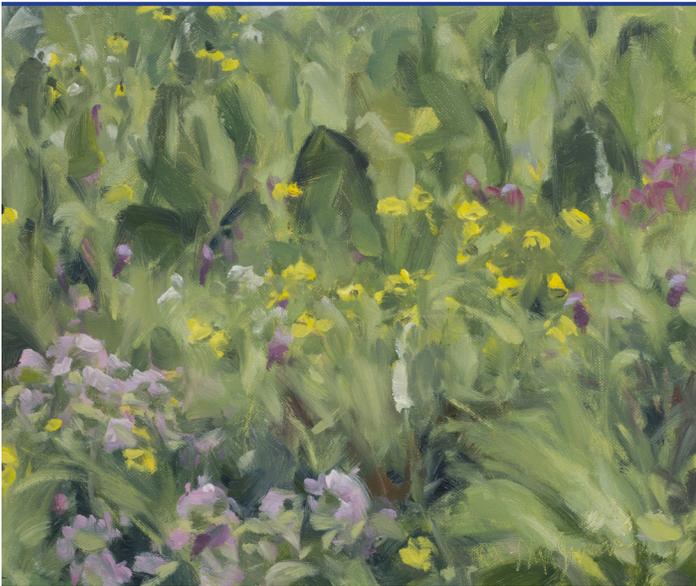
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7 *Coreopsis palmata*
Prairie Coreopsis
 — JH



8 *Dalea purpurea*
Purple Prairie Clover
 Baasibagak RC



9 *Monarda fistulosa*
Wild Bergamot
 Aamoogaawanzh IR



10 *Phlox glaberrima interior*
Marsh Phlox
 — JJB



11 *Silphium terebinthinaceum*
Prairie Dock
 — JO, PD



12 *Veronicastrum virginicum*
Culver's Root
 Wiisagijibik IR



Title: Gensburg Markham Prairie
Details: Oil on canvas, 9 x 11 in., July 10, 2017
Location: Gensburg Markham, Cook County, Illinois
Plant Community: Mesic Black Soil Prairie
Description: A National Natural Landmark, this 167-acre preserve is a mosaic of remnant prairie communities. The high quality wetlands and prairies sit on the former lake plain of glacial Lake Chicago which resulted in a diversity of clay and sand soil deposited by the receding lake. The site includes black soil tallgrass prairie, uncommon now in Illinois, its rich soil having been plowed for agriculture. Influenced by diverse substrate and water conditions, an expansive palette of plant species grow in the site's diverse habitats.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for Gensburg Markham Prairie

Painted quickly between summer rain showers, this small field study explores the wide range of patterns, textures, and

colors produced by the rich species diversity of this extraordinary prairie remnant.

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13 *Andropogon gerardii*
Big Bluestem

— DS



14 *Coreopsis tripteris*
Tall Coreopsis

— JJB



15 *Monarda fistulosa*
Wild Bergamot
Aamoogaawanzh

IR



16 *Oligoneuron rigidum*
Stiff Goldenrod
Giiziso-maskiki

KC



17 *Parthenium integrifolium*
Wild Quinine

— JJ



18 *Silphium laciniatum*
Compass Plant

— KC,PD



Title: Inspired by Poplar Creek Prairie
Details: Oil on canvas, 24 x 36 in., 2013
Location: Poplar Creek Prairie, Cook County, Illinois
Plant Community: Mesic Prairie
Description: Poplar Creek Prairie is a 300-acre site being restored - or healed to its original state - from former agricultural land to prairies and wetlands. Tall prairie grasses and a diversity of wildflowers showcase the 30 years of restoration work often led by volunteers. Flora of the mesic prairie is sustained through moisture being available throughout the growing season and accessed by an extensive and deep network of roots that prairies develop. Grassland birds that need large, open areas, including bobolinks and Henslow's and grassland sparrows, have returned to the site.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for Inspired by Poplar Creek Prairie

Based on multiple photographs of the beautifully restored prairie, this studio painting celebrates the species that were

visually dominant in July 2013. From an eye-level view, it also conveys the horizon-obscuring verticality of the summer's rapid plant growth.

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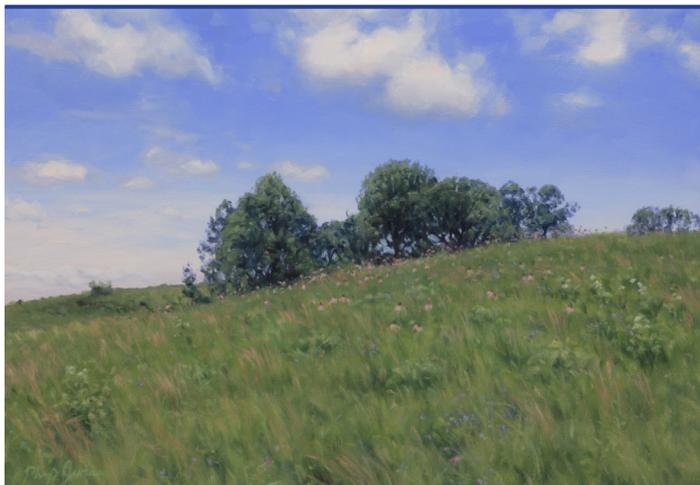
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19 *Amorpha canescens*
Lead Plant
 — IR



20 *Echinacea pallida*
Pale Coneflower
 — JJ



21 *Parthenium integrifolium*
Wild Quinine
 — PD



22 *Rosa carolina subsp. subserrulata*
Prickly Prairie Rose
 Oginii-waabigwan IR



23 *Sporobolus heterolepis*
Prairie Dropseed
 Mashkosiw JJB



24 *Tradescantia ohiensis*
Spiderwort
 — RC



Title: Doug's Knob
Details: Oil on canvas, 18 x 26 in., June 13, 2018
Location: Nachusa Grasslands, Illinois
Plant Community: Dry Gravel Prairie
Description: A large prairie landscape in Illinois, the 3500-acre Nachusa grasslands supports a variety of high quality habitats. One of the unique and rare features is a knob - a remnant, and never plowed, dry gravel prairie. Rain percolates quickly through the substrate, resulting in plants tolerant of dry conditions. With less available moisture, plants are generally shorter than their counterpart in mesic or wet prairies.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for *Doug's Knob*

By capturing the color, height, and variety of the late spring vegetation found on one of Nachusa's hilltop remnants, this June field painting aims to convey the richness and dynamic

beauty of the preserve. It is one of a series of paintings of Doug's Knob that together illustrate its seasonal variation. The presence in the foreground of last year's dead grass stems reveal this hillside was left unburned in the previous fire season.

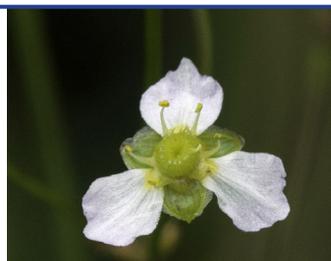
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25 *Alisma subcordatum*
Common Water Plantain
 — JJB



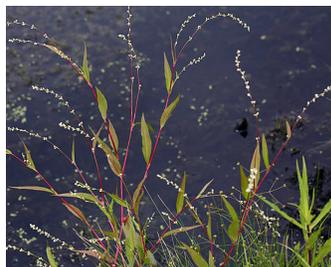
26 *Asclepias incarnata*
Swamp Milkweed
 Bagizowin IR



27 *Bolboschoens fluviatilis*
River Bulrush
 Anaakan PD



28 *Mentha canadensis*
Wild Mint
 — MH



29 *Persicaria punctata*
Water Pepper
 — PD



30 *Typha latifolia*
Broad-leaved Cattail
 — JH



Title: Spring Creek Valley c. 1833
Details: Oil on canvas, 24 x 36 in., 2020
Location: Spring Lake Preserve, Illinois
Plant Community: Marsh
Description: Spring Lake's 560-acre protected nature preserve is contained within a 4000-acre forest preserve. Among many plant communities, the area includes a shallow marsh. Seasonal standing water and moist conditions characterize this community where emergent plants tolerant of having their roots in water are common. Spring Lake is designated as an "Important Bird Area" as the marshes and nearby prairies provide breeding and feeding habitat for many migratory and resident birds.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for *Spring Creek Valley c. 1833*
 Inspired by Colbee Benton's 1833 description of a marsh on the nearby Fox River and personal observations of a July 2015

sunrise on Bateman Road at the Spring Lake Preserve, this marsh scene recreates the open view across Spring Creek valley as it might have appeared before European settlement.

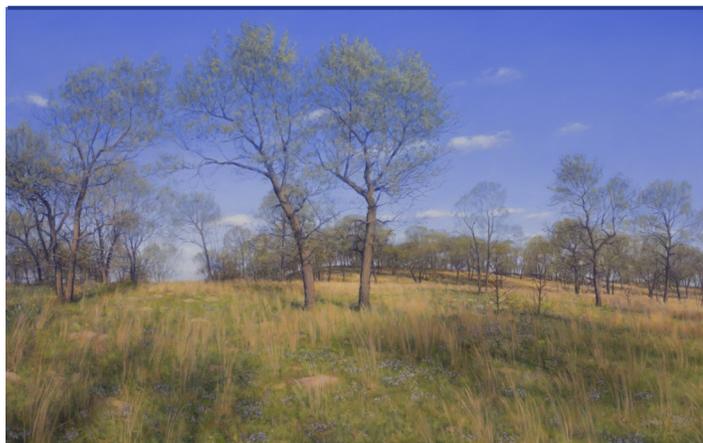
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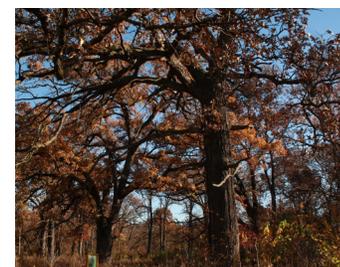
31 *Lithospermum croceum*
Hairy Puccoon
 Odji'bikaaman PJ



32 *Maianthemum stellatum*
Starry False Solomon's Seal
 Nanibite od'egin PJ



33 *Phlox bifida*
Sand Phlox
 — IR



34 *Quercus velutina*
Black Oak
 Mitigomizh IR



35 *Schizacharum scoparium*
Little Bluestem
 Makode'kens PD, JH



36 *Viola pedata* var. *lineariloba*
Bird's Foot Violet
 Waawiyebag IR



Title: Pembroke Savanna
Details: Oil on canvas, 30 x 48 in., 2019
Location: Pembroke Savanna, Kankakee County, Illinois
Plant Community: Black Oak Savanna
Description: Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserves, is a high quality dry sand oak savanna - an ecosystem with few trees and an understory of grasses and wildflowers. Formed by massive amounts of glacial meltwaters that scoured the Kankakee Valley during the last Ice Age (known as the Kankakee Torrent) along with sand and gravel deposited and blown to form dunes, the area consists of high plant diversity tolerant of sandy soils - such as the black oak - the savanna's dominant tree and keystone species.

Philip Juras's Inspiration for Pembroke Savanna

Inspired by a late afternoon visit in May 2019, this composition highlights the site's remarkable dune topography, characteristic tree forms, spectacular violets, and unusual prairie pocket

gopher excavations. It relies on a striking color combination of spring-green verdure, the golden hue of last year's grass stems, and a deep blue sky to convey a sensory impression of the visit.