

# DRIFTLESS PRAIRIE VISIONS

5 ARTISTS, 10 ACRES, 20 YEARS, 1 PRAIRIE

# ABOUT PRAIRIE VISIONS | FIVE ARTISTS, TEN ACRES, TWENTY YEARS, ONE PRAIRIE

The Driftless Region <sup>1</sup>



★ Location of property that inspired *Prairie Visions*  
(Sauk Co, WI)

<sup>1</sup> Map: Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative, USDA

<sup>2</sup> **Phenology** [ fee-naa-luh-jee ] The timing of cyclical or seasonal biological events, such as migrations, egg laying, flowering, and hibernation. (Source: [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com))

<sup>3</sup> <https://mywisconsinwoods.org/2016/11/30/three-times-lucky-driftless-region/>

<sup>4</sup> [www.Mississippivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.Mississippivalleyconservancy.org)

**DRIFTLESS PRAIRIE VISIONS** explores the phenology<sup>2</sup> of plants in Driftless prairie habitats through the prism of a 10-acre Sauk County, WI prairie. The prairie, which grows on a bluff above the Wisconsin River, was lovingly reconstructed and documented by artist Jill Metcoff over the past 20 years.

Four artists joined Jill to analyze and interpret the data, which included detailed notes about the weekly bloom times, abundance, duration of plant species, and related data. The artists used this information to inspire their own unique works of art. The artists form the collaborative **Prairie Imaginarium**.

The importance of prairies in the Driftless cannot be overstated. So-named for having been spared the effects of glaciation (or drift) during past ice age events<sup>3</sup> the Driftless is now widely considered a “biodiversity hotspot”<sup>4</sup> that touches parts of southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and northwest Illinois. While only a small amount of prairie habitat remains, increasing numbers of organizations and landowners are devoting time and resources to prairie reconstruction.

*Driftless Prairie Visions* grew out of deep personal connections to the land and evolved into a creative collaboration at the intersection of art and science that asks us to reflect on our personal relationships to fragile ecosystems.

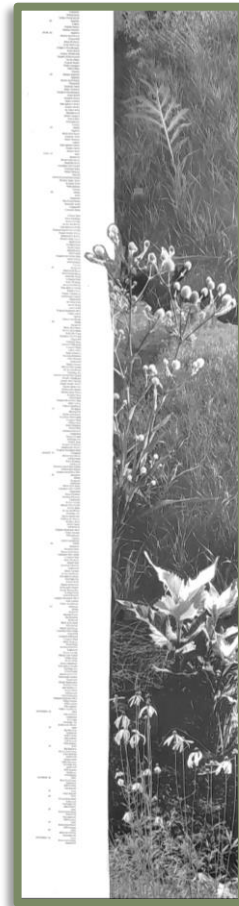
## PRAIRIE IMAGINARIUM ARTISTS

- **Jill Metcoff**  
Spring Green, WI
- **Gigi La Budde**  
Spring Green, WI
- **Karen Ellzey Wright**  
Ridgeway, WI and Chicago, IL
- **Peggy Bradley Timmerman**  
Gotham, WI
- **Joni Graves**  
Spring Green, WI

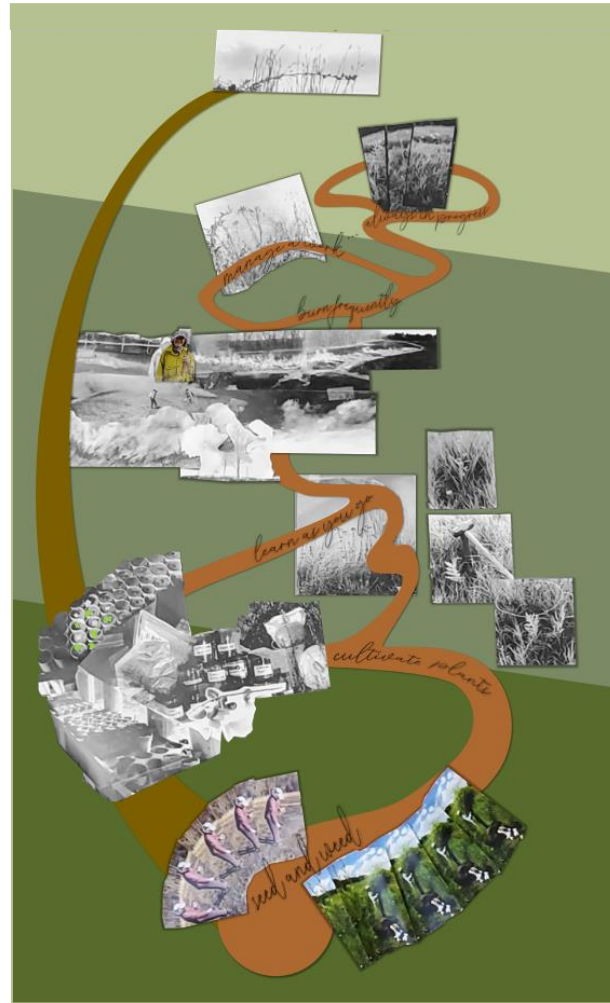
# The Prairie Path

INSTALLATION RENDERING SHOWS MOCKUP OF COMPLETED WORK

**The Pleasure  
of Lists:**  
Plants in the  
prairie



**The Prairie Path:**  
A Reconstruction Process



**Notes from the Field:**  
Journal and Eco Prints



Appx size:  
12' W x 6' H

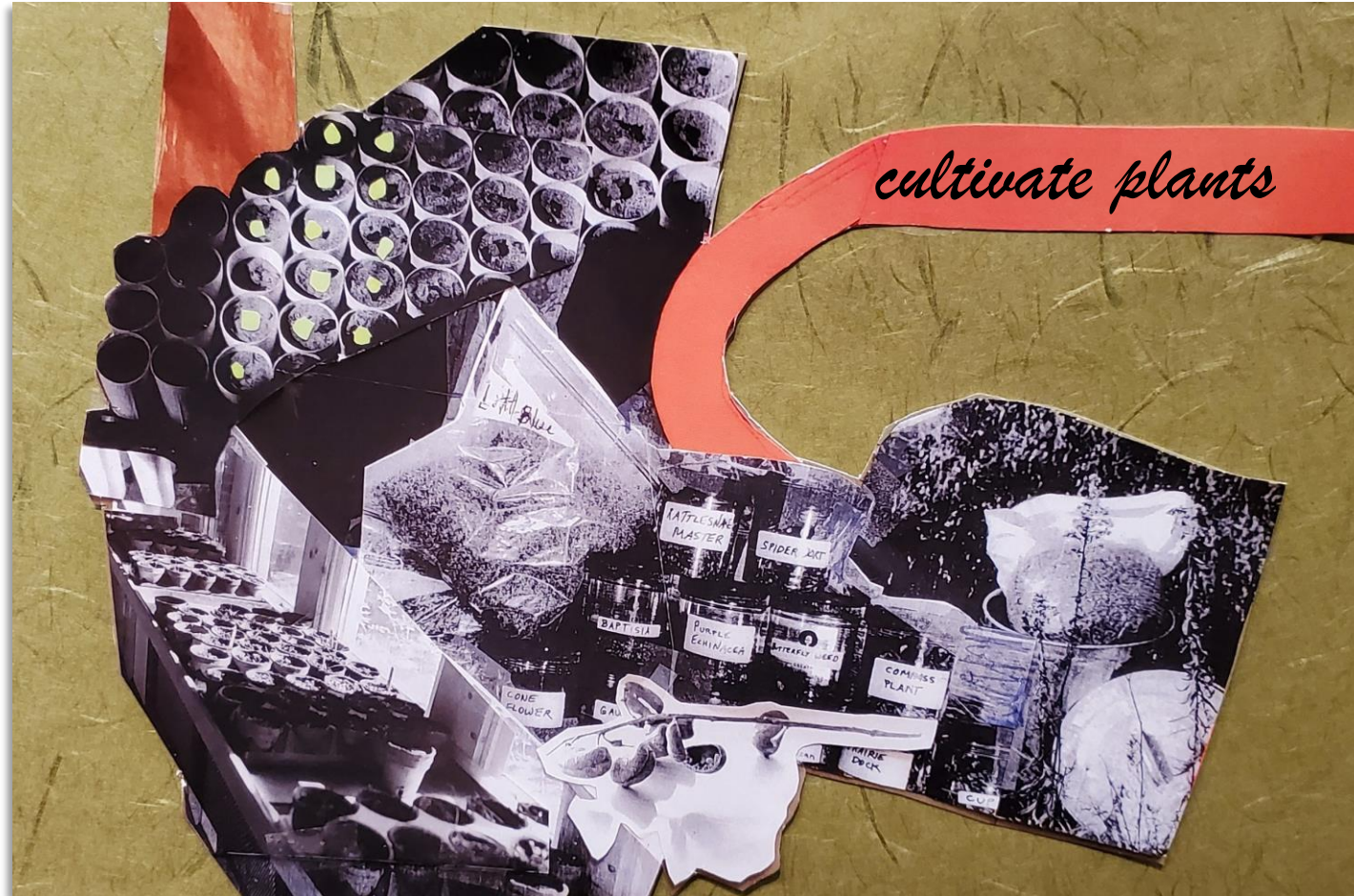


# The Prairie Path

## Exhibit Component Details



1. Detail from **The Pleasure of Lists:**  
Plants in the Prairie  
(Collage of silver-gelatin prints)



2. Detail from **The Prairie Path:**  
A Reconstruction Process  
(Collage of silver-gelatin prints on various papers)



3. Detail from **Notes from the Field:**  
Journal and Eco Prints  
(Notebook pages and eco prints)