

A Prairie Rendezvous

A joint publication of:



Greenup Vol3, N2, 2001

Welcome to a new millennium of ecological stewardship in east-central Illinois. The recent months have brought some exciting developments; with potential new stewardship sites on the horizon. We hope to bring you a full story in the next issue.

In the mean time check out this issues' Volunteer workday calander...it is jam packed with chances to get out and help restore some of Illinois; a ll while seeing a wide range of sights.

Volunteers are the heart of the Prairie Grove Volunteers and Grand Prairie Friends. Both groups run solely by committed volunteers. But whether you give your time, money, or both; your efforts are appreciated.

The Grand Prairie Friends quilt is finnished and will have its grand opening on Sunday, April 8. See the story inside for full details

- the editors

Issues between managers and researchers

by: Brenda Molano-Flores

At recent meeting I observed one interesting thing - most of the managers were sitting on one side of the table and most of the researchers on the other. Is this strange? No. This just reflects an interesting problem, a barrier between managers and researchers. The barrier is a lack of communication regarding how to do things and how to work together. Although both sides want to know the "hows" and "whys" of things, their timeframes and priorities may be different. If we want to work together we have to do something to solve this lack of communication.

It is my impression that managers are dealing with "now" problems. This site has too much sweet clover so what can I do *now* to solve this problem. On the other hand, researchers want to learn the factors creating the problem - how can I develop an experiment that will determine which management regime (fire, herbicide, etc.) is more effective to reduce sweet clover? For a researcher, setting up an experiment that will last 5 to 10 years is not a big deal. For most managers, waiting 5 to 10 years to get the results of a study is not a realistic option; most likely by then the weeds will have taken over.

So what is the solution to this problem? I have several recommendations.

1) Researchers have to realize that managers are not dealing with one site or two, but too many. They are overworked. So asking them to do the research is not the right approach. However, managers can provide suggestions about where to do projects and point out some of the fundamental questions that need to be answered because this will help them with their management.

2) When working together, both groups have to be flexible. Sometimes the window for management activities is narrow. For example, to do a prescribed burn you need the right conditions (wind, humidity, etc.). This cannot be predicted and the manager has to go ahead and burn when conditions are right. However, if a researcher requests that a site not be burned during a particular year a manager should not treat the request as a problem but an opportunity. Remember that the ultimate goal is to gather information that will contribute to the long-term management of sites.

3) Because managers deal with many sites they can guide researchers to appropriate areas where research can be conducted. In addition, by using several sites researchers can have replications. However, one underlining truth

(see Issues, page 6)

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Managing Editor/Layout: Douglas Chien
Editor: Alf Siewers

A Prairie Rendezvous is a joint publication of the Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois (GPF) and the Prairie Grove Volunteers (PGV) for the restoration community of east-central Illinois.

A Prairie Rendezvous is published quarterly. Article submissions should be sent electronically to the editor at dchien@megsinet.net

Prairie Grove Volunteers
www.prairienet.org/pgv

The PGV is part of The Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Stewardship Network. Its stewards help coordinate volunteer workdays at native prairie, savanna, wetland, and woodland remnants. Inquires and tax-deductible donations should be sent to: Prairie Grove Volunteers PO Box 2577, Champaign, IL 61825

Grand Prairie Friends of Illinois
www.prairienet.org/gpf

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A Prairie Rendezvous
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Hibernation Issue (Dec, Jan, Feb)
November 15

Greenup Issue (March, April, May)
February 15

Summer Issue (June, July, Aug)
May 15

Fall Issue (Sept, Oct, Nov)
August 15

Member submissions encouraged.

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Lobbying and Not-for-Profit Groups

by: Douglas Chien

In the last issue of A Prairie Rendezvous Alf Siewers took a look at the prospects for restorationists under the new president. He presented an overview but posited the notion that it is WE who can determine the fate of policy, not the individual in the White House. In part two we present a 'nuts and bolts' looks at how we as citizens and as organizations can shape policy.

A common fallacy about nonprofit organizations is that lobbying is not allowed because of the very nonprofit status of the organization. This belief can be the source of debate or perhaps hand-wringing by group leaders who recognize the need for lobbying to accomplish their aims. Fortunately, contrary to common belief, lobbying is permitted, although some restrictions do apply.

Organizations such as the Prairie Grove Volunteers (part of The Nature Conservancy's Volunteer Stewards Network) and Grand Prairie Friends are known 501(c)(3) organizations; after the section of the federal tax code that defines charitable organizations and the activities which can be supported. Any organization that is a 501(c)(3) is nonprofit and tax exempt which means that donations made to such a group are fully tax deductible by the individual making the donation and that the organization does not have to pay taxes.

(see *Lobbying*, page 7)

The Humane Prairie

by: James Hoyt

Many of us have been introduced to animal companions at the Champaign County Humane Society which is located just off of East Main Street, in Urbana Illinois.

We have passed by the small oasis of grass, cattail, and wildflowers that sits on the south boundary of its parking area and we may have wondered about the history and purpose of this site. This article is an attempt to answer some of these questions.

Over the past several years a number of people have worked to make this native garden a reality. I have been informed that this site was begun by, Heartland Pathway's founder, David Monk. While in the intervening years, a number of prairie enthusiasts, too numerous to mention here, have helped to till, plant, burn, and maintain the site.

Grand Prairie Friends has donated many native plants through the generosity of Ruth Green and the directors of GPF.

This year, in the true spirit of RENDEZVOUS we are officially welcoming The Champaign County Master Gardeners into the fold as we begin this year's growing season.

(see *Humane*, page 5)

Volunteer Workday



Calendar



Greenup (March, April, May) 2001

Spring means BURN SEASON! Prescribed burns will be scheduled in early March for several sites. Wear natural-fiber (cotton, wool), long pants and sleeves, boots, and gloves. *No synthetic fabrics*. Bring drinking water and a snack. Call Rick Larimore (w: 244-6716, h: 337-7006) or Dan Busemeyer (w: 244-2470).

Every Tuesday evening from March 6 until May 1. 5:00 - 9:00 pm.

GPF PLANT SALE WORK NIGHTS. We will be at the NRB greenhouse, behind the NRB building. Contact Ruth Green (355-8125, 333-7091) for more information.

1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Enjoy a woodlands close to home.

BUSEY WOODS. Bring loppers or handsaws if you have them. APNC* 9 am. Frank Hassler (390-8846) or Matt Hohmann (329-4122).

Saturday, March 24. Swing to the sounds of spring.

PAXTON RAILROAD PRAIRIE. Weed removal and teasel rosette herbiciding. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site: 10 am. Connie Carroll (w: 244-7741, h: 352-4731).

Sunday, March 31

MIDDLE FORK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE. Help eradicate garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle from this remnant of a once vast mesic upland forest. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site: 10 am. Jim or Crystal Brewer (354-2558).

Saturday, April 7

JASMINE HOLLOW NATURAL HERITAGE LANDMARK. A 140 acre private site along the Sangamon River with mature bottomland and second growth upland forest; protecting the Sangamon River and is a nearby link to Allerton Park. 9:30 am Lost Garden parking lot at Allerton Park. Jim Payne (h: 344-7840 w: 684-2120).

Saturday, April 14 (Easter Weekend). Spring Wildflower Hike.

HORSESHOE BOTTOM AND WINDFALL PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVES. See hill prairies, seeps, marsh marigolds, and breathtaking views of the Middlefork of the Vermilion! Several miles of rough hiking. APNC: 9 am carpool or Lake Mingo Parking lot 10 am. Rick Larimore (337-7006) or Jim Smith (896-2079).

Saturday, April 21. 9:45 to 11:15 am.

PATTON WOODS. Help preserve this diverse woodland. Trail maintenance, brush clearing, and some litter pickup. Meet on site at 9:45 am. Earl Creutzburg (w: 351-2371, h: 328-2375).

Saturday, April 28

PELLVILLE CEMETERY PRAIRIE. Brush clearing from this high quality dry mesic prairie. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site 10 am. Contact Paul Tessene (w: 244-7984, h: 344-4303) or Peggy Waltherhausen (h: 344-4303).

Sunday, April 29

MIDDLE FORK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE. See March 31.

- No Pets. Activities such as prescribed burning may endanger pets, even if they are on leashes or otherwise supervised.
- Wear appropriate attire for working outdoors, (i.e. gloves, boots or comfortable shoes, long sleeves, long pants, durable clothing)
- Bring drinking water and a snack or lunch.
- Bring loppers, handsaws, and pruners if you have them.
- Sunscreen and a hat

Beginning Thursday, May 3rd. 5:30 to dusk. Work Nights will be every Thursday.

WINDSOR ROAD PRAIRIE RESTORATION. Pull sweet clover, spray vetch and Canada thistle. Replant sprayed areas. Contact Ruth Green (355-8125, 333-7091).

Sunday in May (date to be determined):

MIDDLE FORK RIVER. **Cleanup day!** Join the Prairie Paddlers Canoe Club as we canoe and collect trash. This is a National Scenic River, so be prepared for some fantastic scenery! Jim or Crystal Brewer (354-2558) or check the web site.

Saturday, May 5

HORSESHOE BOTTOM AND WINDFALL PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVES. **See Saturday, April 14.**

NETTIE HART MEMORIAL WOODLAND. Visit upland and floodplain forest along the Sangamon River. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site 9:30. Contact Bryant Barnes (493-8686).

Friday, May 11. 7:00 -9:00 pm.

GPF PLANT SALE SETUP. Help us get things ready for the annual plant sale. Contact Ruth Green (355-8125).

Saturday, May 12. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

GPF ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE. Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana. Volunteers needed! Contact Ruth Green.

Saturday, May 13: (Mother's Day Weekend). Spring Flower Walk.

LODA PRAIRIE. Enjoy the spring wildflowers of the prairie. Meet on site. Dwain Berggren (367-5014).

Saturday, May 19

MIDDLE FORK BLUFFS. Help pull garlic mustard and cut multiflora rose. APNC: 9 am carpool or Salt Kettle rest area 10 am. This rest area is off I-74 just west of Danville. Contact Dan Busemeyer (244-2470).

Tuesday, May 22 6:00 - 8:30.

MEADOWBROOK PRAIRIE RESTORATION. Parsnip or sweet clover removal. Bob Vaiden (344-9042). Meet at Meadowbrook at the Race Street parking lot.

Saturday, May 26

MIDDLE FORK STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA. See prickly pear cactus. A moderate hike. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site 10 am. Connie Carroll (w: 244-7741, h: 352-4731).

Saturday, June 2

PROSPECT CEMETERY PRAIRIE. Some 80 native species! 21 found nowhere else in the county! APNC: 9 am carpool or on site 10 am. Chris Hauser (384-5048) or John Taft (244-5046).

Saturday, June 9

SHORTLINE RAILROAD PRAIRIE. APNC: 9 am carpool or on site 9:45 am. Paul Marcum (w: 333-8459, h: 892-9287)

**Directions:**

APNC - ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER. Urbana Park District. 1505 North Broadway, Urbana. Busey Woods is located behind the APNC.

NRB - Natural Resources Building. U of I campus, 6th and Pennsylvania.

PATTON WOODS - From C-U go north on I-57 to US 136. Go east on 136 to Gifford then north on County Rd. 2300E about 6 miles to the T-intersection with 3600N (County Line Rd.) Head east on the County Line Rd about 2 miles to 2500E. Go south on 2500N about 1/4 mile to Patton Wood's entrance.

(Humane, continued)

Many Master Gardeners and Humane Society volunteers have worked tirelessly to lay the ground work for this "meeting" on the Prairie.

This year the master gardeners will work to take inventory of the sites plants, add additional "showy natives", remove invasive species, and conduct a burn at the site.

Karie Wallace, friend and naturalist, formerly with The Urbana Park District, at the Anita Purvis Nature Center, (and now with the Sierra Club and Champaign Co. Audubon Society), has graciously agreed to help the Master Gardeners "GO NATIVE" and will lead a team of gardeners.

This educational project also has the benefit of showing many traditional gardeners how to safely conduct a maintenance burn in a small garden.

A new sign is also being planned which will help to educate the public about the purpose of this "Native Garden".

The Gardeners will continue to focus on featuring local native plants and will attempt to integrate feature which attract birdlife to the site.

This project is a cooperative venture of The Champaign County Humane Society, The Champaign County Master Gardeners, Grand Prairie Friends, The Sierra Club, and The Champaign County Audubon Society, and other friends.

Anyone who is interested in helping, has ideas or would like a guided tour of this native garden should contact Sandy Mason at 333-7672. 

The GPF Roundup

Despite chilly, windy weather about 60 people attended the Grand Prairie Friends winter program, Pollination on the Prairie, held Friday, February 9 at the Anita Purves Nature Center in Urbana. Many came early and enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. Among those attending were five members of NICHES, a land trust in western Indiana.

The program featured two speakers from the Illinois Natural History Survey. First, plant systematist Dr. Kenneth Robertson described pollination syndromes.

His presentation featured slides showing characteristics shared by flowers designed primarily to attract specific groups of pollinators such as bees, butterflies, or hummingbirds. He used many examples of flowering plants that occur in Illinois prairies.

The second speaker was Dr. Brenda Molano-Flores, a plant ecologist, who discussed the relevance of knowledge about pollination biology for the preservation and restoration of prairie communities. She explained, for example, why some plants may have very low reproductive success even if appropriate pollinators are present. She also pointed out that habitat fragmentation has left small, widely dispersed prairie remnants that may make it difficult for pollinators to do their job.

Thanks to Ken and Brenda for an informative program! 

- Joyce Hoffman, GPF Board President

Our income and expenses were little changed from 1999-2000. We finished both years in the black. We added 8 new members in 2000, finishing the year with 125. The stewardship endowment grew by a generous 21%, bringing it to \$6,388. This amount will generate enough income to pay the travel expenses for one of our interns in perpetuity. We welcome gifts of any amount, so please consider a donation if you can. Thank you! 

- Jim Payne, GPF Treasurer

A limited number of the Proceedings of the Fifth Central Illinois Prairie Conference are available. To purchase a copy send a check for \$10 to Grand Prairie Friends, PO Box 36, Urbana, IL 61803. If you prefer to use a credit card, click on the helping.org icon on our website (www.prairienet.org/gpf) and send your mailing address to gpf@prairienet.org. 

GPF would like to thank SDSJ Consultants, Ltd. of Oak Brook, Illinois for the donation of two water pumps.

Join Us in Celebration of the Prairie Quilt Project!

On Sunday, April 8th from 2 - 4 pm, a reception will be held for the Prairie Quilt and all the people who have worked so hard to make it a reality.

The reception will be held at the **Early American Museum in Mahomet** and will kick off an exhibit showcasing this quilt.

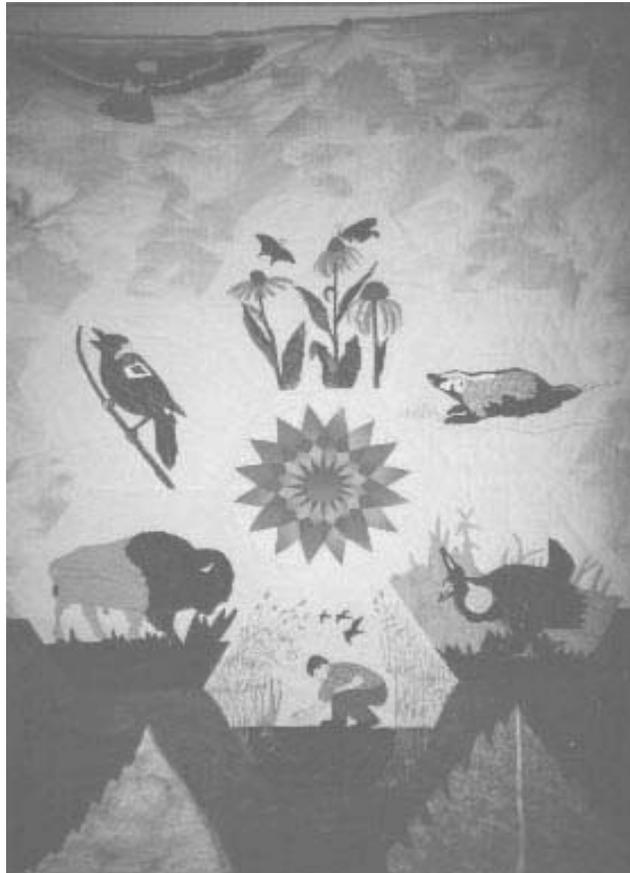
The project was inspired by Grand Prairie Friends member Sharon Monday-Dorsey.

In progress since 1994, the creation of this quilt has involved the time, energy and vision of many dedicated people.

The idea was to create a quilt that could be used as an educational tool about our prairie heritage and ways it can be protected.

After the exhibit at the Early American Museum, the Prairie Quilt will be displayed in nature centers, museums, and libraries in other Illinois communities. Several other quilts with nature themes will also be on display during the exhibit's run on weekends from April 7 through May 28, 10 am to 5 pm each day.

The Early American Museum is located in Mahomet Illinois, about 1 mile north of the intersection of Interstate 74 and Route 47. 



The Grand Prairie Friends Quilt (8' x 10')

(Issues, Continued)

is that researchers are never going to get all the controls or replications that they may want from managers. If a manager and researcher talk with open minds, a project can be developed that fits the needs of both of them.

4) One big problem with many managers is that they rely a lot on anecdotal information. For managers it is what works, not the details about how it works, that matters. However, saying that something "works for me" is not enough for a researcher. Researchers want to know why and how a management technique works. This can take several years, but in the end this will reduce time and expense. Then we will really know what practices work best and managers can apply this knowledge to the management of other sites.

Finally, I believe that the fundamental difficulty that we need to overcome to solve these problems is people's attitudes. Many managers think that researchers are talking down to them. Many researchers think that they know everything and are not willing to listen to the needs of managers. These attitudes have been around for far too long. If we are not able to change them, how can we develop scientifically based management practices? Managers and researchers must realize that in order to reach their mutual goal of enhancing and preserving natural communities they need to work together. 

Brenda Molano-Flores is a scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey

(Lobbying, continued)

First off, what is 'lobbying?' 'Lobbying' is defined as any attempt to influence legislation through either: a) Direct Lobbying - direct communication with any member or staff of a legislative body; or b) Indirect Lobbying - efforts to educate the general public about a legislative issue, expressing a position of that issue, **and** urging them to contact the member or staff of a legislative body. 'Legislation' is defined as action by the US Congress, any state legislature, any local council or similar body, or by the public in a referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment or the like.

Fortunately, there are straightforward conditions that must be met for communications to be considered direct lobbying. The communication must contain all three of the following elements:

1. reference to specific legislation;
2. stating of a view on this legislation; AND
3. the view is addressed or given to a legislator, an employee of a legislative body, or other government official participating in the formulation of legislation.

If your communication to an elected official does not meet **all three** of these criteria then it is not lobbying and is considered tax-deductible.

Likewise, indirect lobbying (communication with your members or the general public) must meet three criteria to be considered lobbying.

These are:

1. reference to specific legislation;
2. stating of a view on this legislation; AND
3. a "call to action" such as:
 - encouraging recipients to contact legislators;
 - providing legislator's name, address, and phone number;
 - providing a tear-off postcard to send to a legislator; or
 - identifying a legislator as being opposed to a particular view, undecided, the recipient's legislator, or a member of the committee or subcommittee that will consider the legislation.

Simply identifying the major sponsor of legislation is NOT a call to action.

So how much lobbying can a 501(c)(3) organization like GPF conduct without running afoul with the IRS? Fortunately, the Land Trust Alliance addressed this very issue in an open answer published at their web site (www.lta.org) last spring. In it, a LTA staff person states that there are two sets of rules, excepting churches, that 501(c)(3) groups can follow. The first rule is that no substantial part of the organization's activities can be lobbying. This rule is a bit difficult to quantitatively describe since organizations that follow this rule are not subject to any specific dollar-base limitation. It is important to note that activities of the group include more than budgeted dollar amounts; includes volunteer time and other resources that a group can use. One rule of thumb that can be handy is that no

more than 20% of a group's total resources can be used for lobbying.

The second rule is a sliding monetary scale that a group must abide by. It allows up to \$1,000,000 on total lobbying and up to \$250,000 for grassroots (indirect) lobbying. The scales are based on a percentage of the group's exempt expenditures. For a group to utilize this rule it must file a one page form with the IRS.

Groups may also educate their members on the stated position of candidates for public office. However, this 'voter education' must take care to not support or oppose one candidate over another.

In summary, nonprofit tax exempt organizations such as Grand Prairie Friends can engage in lobbying of elected officials and they can urge their members to lobby. With a judicious use of resources and time, the smallest organizations can increase its effectiveness by utilizing all of the various methods of achieve its mission and goals. 

Douglas Chien is a staff person with the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club and former board member of GPF.

Upcoming Events

Grand Prairie Friends 2001 Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 12. Lincoln Square Mall in downtown Urbana IL. 9 am - 3 pm

Buy native flowers, grasses, and woodland plants at the annual sale. Members will be on hand to help you select the right plants for your garden. We will also be selling plants at a couple of Farmer's Markets after the plant sale. Held in conjunction with the C-U Business & Professional Women

Spring Wildflower Expeditions

Join Frank Hassler, Busey Woods Steward, to explore the diversity of wildflowers in our area. Learn to identify local flora, and learn a bit about their biology, ecology, and history.

Discussion include local ecological issues and how they effect wild plants. Every class will be spent 'in the field.'

Classes will be held every Tuesday from 5:10 to 6:30pm April 3 - May 15. Sign up at the University YMCA (1001 S. Wright St.). There is a \$5 fee.

Butterfly Monitoring Workshop

Saturday, April 7. Izaak Walton facility at Lake of the Woods Park. Mahomet, IL
10 am - 2 pm (lunch provided)

This beginners workshop will cover: Basic butterfly identification, equipment use, data collection and reporting, and site selection.

Cosponsored by: Butterfly Monitoring Network & Champaign Co. Forest Preserve. Specimens on loan from the Illinois Natural History Survey

For information or to register, please contact Gail Snowdon: snowdon@uiuc.edu

The next meeting of the **Forest Glen Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society** will be March 13, 7:00pm at the Gannet Center in the Forest Glen Preserve in Vermilion County. For more information, contact Connie Carroll (217-244-7741) or Ken Konsis (217-442-1691) or check out the INPS website at www.inhs.uiuc.edu/inps

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Lobbying and the 501(c)(3) group.