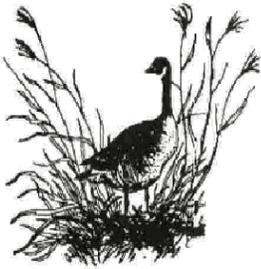


The Tallgrass Journal

Goose Lake Prairie Partners, 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450

Volume 9, Issue 4



Fun and Games at Prairie Day...

What a beautiful fall day for the **15th Annual Prairie Day festivities** held Saturday, September 15, 2012, at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area and sponsored by our good friends at Midwest Generation in conjunction with National Prairie Week.

Over 300 visitors came to this educational event as the partners and friends brought the prairie to life with sounds, wonder, and wildlife of all kinds. From the Traveling Conservation Wagon to the auditorium performers, our guests experienced first-hand the sights and sounds of mother nature at her best.



CPO Dave Wollgast talks with visitors concerning the display

Jannifer Powelson began our day discussing and reading from her books on the prairie and forests. **Dave DiNaso** thrilled our audiences once again with his reptile friends and knowledge of their nature and Habitat. **Lou Aiello** continues to educate us on Indian Lore. How we love The **Great Mistini** performing magic to delight both our young and old. **Judi Jacksohn**, Prairie Partner, filled the wagons for interpretative prairie rides with Partner **Bill Neese** at the wheel. Our visitors supported us through our beautiful quilt raffle, autographed copies of Jannifer's books, and purchases from our gift shop. The coloring book project was well received.

Bill and Kim Manley once again filled the air with delicious grilled buffalo burgers, brats and dogs, making our Prairie Partner Combos a big hit with our guests. The afternoon was capped off With **Beth Wagner's Scales and Tales** performance bringing delight with her animals and interactions.

As we marvel at the growth of this event and the visitors who return to it year after year along with new Friends of the prairie, we must take time to thank all those who volunteered to help us with this event and to **Midwest Generation** for 10 years of support for the Prairie Partners and this event.

- JMartin



The Winner Of the 2012 Fundraiser

Steve Neese of Kankakee Illinois won the lovely "Study in Blue" twin size quilt pieced by Becky Sipple and Long Arm Quilted by Ann Register. Shown in the photo is Steve's daughter Madilyn.

A new fundraiser quilt is already on display in the center. See page 6.

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Park Notes:

The prairie looks beautiful. Our park staff is keeping the visitor areas ready, so why not plan an outing? There are many trails to choose from according to the length of trail you want to walk.

As the weather moves into fall and winter, remember to dress warmly as you venture out on the park trails.

Good walking shoes, a hat and a bit of water are a must. Yes you may bring the dog for a walk also, but remember to pick up after him/her and when you return from the prairie fields, check your pets as well as yourself for ticks and other varmints..

Reminder: No motorized vehicles are allowed on park trails.

Stay informed by checking the website. <http://gooselakeprairie.org>

Calendar of Events

Call the park desk for more information on any of our activities 815-942-2899

**Desk service for 2012 ends with the Holiday Party November 10th.
Volunteers will again open the Center on weekends, beginning March 2013.**

Cabin Festival	June 15	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
See authentic pioneer crafts done by the Prairie Partners and Friends as they re-enact in authentic dress. Visit the Cragg Cabin history exhibit and prairie life presentations. Park your car in the visitor center parking area. Walk the trail to the Cabin or ride the wagon. Some demonstrators and vendors will have items for sale. The gift shop will be under the tent. The event is to celebrate cabin living and life in the 1830's Location is in and around the Cragg Cabin North North-East of the Visitor's Center.		
7th Annual Nature Photography Contest & Exhibit	August 18	Noon – 3:00 p.m. Accept photo entries
	August 23	6:00 p.m. Contest Judging in Auditorium
	August 24—25	Exhibit Days during Center hours
	August 25	Exhibit Closes 3:30 p.m. -- 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Photo pick up
The Nature Photo contest offers budding photographers a chance to display the best photographs from their many trips to State Parks in Illinois this past year. While we would hope that everyone visits the GLPSNA for their entries, we know you will find a few nice shots in the many parks in Illinois. See our website for details. All activities are in the Visitor's Center.		
16th Annual Prairie Day	September 21	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
The Annual Prairie Day is a celebration of the prairie environment normally held in conjunction with National Prairie Week at the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area. Presentations on the environment and nature play a very important part of the day's activities as well as highlighting on the special features of the park itself. Various presentations, educational talks, and projects for children are the special offerings of the day. All special amenities of the park are open, the Cragg Cabin, the Visitors Center, butterfly barn, nature trails with wagon rides and etc. Prairie Day began as a annual activity in 1997. It traditionally falls on the third Saturday of September. Located in and around the Visitor's Center.		
Natural Resource Tour	September 18—20 (date not confirmed)	9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. <i>(Project aimed at School Children.)</i>
Directed by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District; This event is closed to the public. The Prairie Partners are responsible for the Cabin History Presentations to area schoolchildren. Activities happen in and around the visitor's Center.		
Annual Holiday Open House	November 9	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
We will be decorating the Christmas tree once again with homemade ornaments. If you would like to contribute to our tree, come join us. Children will make holiday ornaments. Hot apple cider and homemade cookies will be served. Partners will be in 1830 period dress. Located in the Visitors Center.		
ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NO RAIN DATES WILL BE ASSIGNED.		

Keep the **Prairie Partners Gift Shop in mind when you visit ...**

Many Nature Books are available, some Jewelry items, Handmade Leather Pouches, Clothing & Hats commemorating the Prairie Park and Hand-woven Rag Rugs.

2012 Remembered...

When you realize the cutbacks and shortages of employees that most of the state parks are experiencing, and the fact that many citizens are cutting back on volunteering, it is with a great sigh of achievement that I feel; honored that the Goose Lake Prairie Partners again had a very successful season in the activities that we sponsored at Goose Lake Prairie during 2012. Superintendent Joe Giacone and I thank the Partners for all the hours the members have given to the park and all the nice things that have resulted from their efforts.

Our weekend project of keeping the doors of the center open on Saturday and Sunday began in March and is wrapping up November 10th. This activity keeps the weekend volunteers in touch with the visitors that come to the park. It was fun to ask where they were from. The fact that many people from so far away stopped at Goose Lake Prairie is exciting.

Our first event brought the Partners out on a Sunny June Saturday to enjoy the delights of the Cragg Cabin Compound. Many friends joined us to make that day a success. In return for a small lunch, our crafters sat in our compound and visited with so many people explaining what craft they were presenting.

The Annual Photo Show drew in around 90 photos this year. (See report on page 4) Judges from Sandwich Camera Club spent about 2.5 hours judging the prints. We spent another hour preparing the exhibit. Our friends from the Morris Camera Club lent a hand to make another great exhibit in the visitors Center.

Jackie Martin, Chairman of the Prairie Day event, which was again sponsored by our good friends at Midwest Generation, saw an excellent response to our programs (article on page 1).

The donations to the park have been astounding. (See Kudos on page 7) Prairie Partner meetings have been well attended, lengthy and rewarding as we try to administer our funds in the best way possible, to add to our visitors knowledge of prairie and nature.

—continued on page 8

Monarch Migration at GLPSNA

Marsha Dabrowski and Eric Thiele, of Naperville Illinois, contacted this editor September 16, to share an event at GLPSNA they witnessed in 2010. It was a migration of Monarch's at Goose Lake Prairie. The event happened 2 years ago—September 14, 2010 around 6:45 p.m.

“After re-watching, I realize the quality of the video / lighting really is pretty poor. Gosh darn it, my iPhone isn't much of a camcorder ;-)

“But I cannot tell you how excited we were to witness this localized migration—which we certainly haven't seen but that one time.

“How did they all know where to go?

“And at the same time?

“The convergence targeted a few branches of a single cottonwood.

“For us at least, it was quite magical. We've returned on the same day in subsequent years hoping to see the same thing — but so far, no dice.

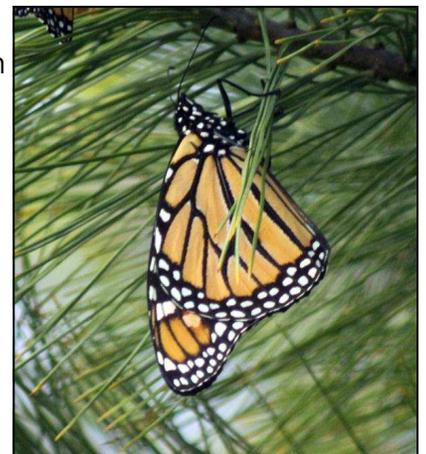
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A second contact with them produced this added response:

“We just got back to Naperville after a late afternoon visit to see if the Monarchs would be doing their thing again this year. I guess the drought has impacted them terribly. I think we saw a mere 10-15 in a 90 minute visit.

“Well - as any good Cubs / Sox / Bears fan would say - ‘maybe next year.’ “

-SJohnson



6th Annual Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit



BEST OF SHOW & BEST OF BLACK AND WHITE:
“Grey Bells” By Denise Rogers, Seneca, IL

The amateur photo contest is held every August at the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area on Pine Bluff Road at Jugtown Road in east Grundy County. It is orchestrated by the volunteer organization, Goose Lake Prairie Partners, with a great deal of assistance from the Morris Camera Club.

Photo entries are to depict the flora, fauna, and natural environment of the state of Illinois. Ninety-two prints were submitted on Sunday August 12th at Goose Lake Prairie Visitors Center on Jugtown Road. The majority of participants were from Grundy County.

Judging for this 6th Annual Nature Photo Contest was held Friday evening (August 17) by a panel of experts assembled by the Morris Camera Club. We thank them for lending their time, equipment and talents.

The Judges were Curtis Larsen, of the Streator Camera Club and Photo Society of Sandwich, David Oldeen of the Photo Society of Sandwich, and Jennifer Hagemeyer, President of the Photo Society of Sandwich.

Winners were announced Saturday morning, and all the photos were on display at the Visitors Center through the weekend. “We are excited by the response to the contest this year”, said Goose Lake Prairie Partners President Susie Johnson. “The quality of the entries this year was outstanding.” The response by the public was very positive, as the visitor count at the Center was up 75% over a normal August weekend. Our visitors were amazed at the professional quality produced by our local amateur photographers.

The Goose Lake Prairie Partners thank the Morris Camera Club members who have faithfully lent assistance to our photography project and a special thank you to Denise Rogers, John & Betty Zappia, and Brittany Benson.; and also the park staff, Art Rohr and Supt. Joe Giacone. We would also like to thank our contestants and hope they return next year.



BEST OF COLOR:
“Bird’s Eye View” By Brittany Benson, Morris, IL



PEOPLE'S CHOICE:

"Pup 'Love' - Red Fox Kit" By Don Belcha, Coal City, IL



Best of Youth Division:

"Water Lily" By Sarah Sumoski, Palos Heights, IL

Visit the Goose Lake Partner Website for a full listing of the photo winners :

<http://Goose Lake Prairie.org>

Look for the Nature Photo Contest/Exhibit on the left hand side of the home page.



PRAIRIE PARTNER PICK:

"Spring at the Cragg" By Gail Peterson, Morris, IL

This was the first year for the Youth Division. We hope to see more youngsters age 16 and under in this category next year.

**"LIKE" us
on
FaceBook**

(Click for an instant link)



Partners Hold Quilt
Fundraiser 2013
To Benefit the Goose Lake
Prairie State Natural Area.

"Patriot's Prize"

Twin Size Quilt

1 ticket for \$1.00

OR

6 tickets for \$5.00

**The drawing will be
September 21, 2013
at the Prairie Day Event.**

**This lovely Quilt has been a project of
Prairie Partner Susie Johnson
who did the piecing. The Quilting was
donated by Ann Register.**

**"A Patriot's Prize" will fit perfectly
on a day bed or a twin sized bed.**

You need not be present to win. Whether you win or not, your contribution to Goose Lake Prairie Partner events and activities is greatly appreciated. Ask for tickets at the visitor's center desk.

The drawing for the quilt will be at Prairie Day, September 21, 2013. The prize must be picked up in 15 days or a new winner will be chosen. We must reach at least \$200.00 in ticket sales or the quilt will not be let go. In that case, the raffle date will be changed to allow a longer period to sell.



*Samples of the
machine
embroidery in the
white squares...*

KUDOS

- We would like to thank Bill Helmick, from Elmhurst, IL for many years of service to the park, for the many slides and photographs he added to our files over the years, and, more recently, for the books and papers that he has donated. Bill was one of the first Prairie Partners back in the 1980s and has kept the park in his thoughts, often brought handouts for the visitors. His thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated.
- From another donor, we received a computer set up to store our library, Tallgrass back issues and nature publications. We are hoping to use this in our reference work as we help our visitors do research. We also received a monetary gift to the Partners to be applied to an item for use in the Visitors Center and for our educational programs.



Students admire and touch the Albino Python displayed by Dave DiNaso at the 2012 Prairie Day.

Gifts To The Park Are Tax Deductible.

Goose Lake Prairie Partners are looking for a few new items to add to the visitors center as well as to the park itself. If you or your organization is looking for a special project, why not consider the following items:

- 1.) Choose a park trail and monitor it to keep it pristinely clean for our visitors.
- 2.) Volunteer to work the Visitor Center Desk during the weekend to help keep the center open. Normally the Center is only open on weekends only if volunteers

work the center.

3.) Consider purchasing an item for the park. At the current time our "Want List" includes:

- New mounted birds or mammals.
- Park benches to place around the park on various trails.
- New folding chairs for our events.
- New folding tables with plastic tops.
- Funding a mural for the Auditorium.

If you are looking for an interesting program for your club or group, why not consider a Nature Program? Call the Park Desk for more information.

- Purchasing a chain saw art piece to sit in Bird Corner.

Tax deductible gifts are recognized with a "certificate of gift" which can be used for tax deductions.

Park Contacts:

Joe Giacone, Site Superintendent

Char McDade, Office Coordinator

Susie Johnson, Prairie Partner President

Bev Mansfield, Vice-President

Rebecca Sipple, Secretary

Jackie Martin, Treasurer/Purchasing Agent

Norma Hedges, Gift Shop Chairperson

Jo Fleming, Historian.

Tom Kaluzny, Board Member

The Mission of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners

The mission of the Prairie Partners is to help the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in the following ways:

To understand, maintain and attract the public to the park by producing various festivals, educational events, and displays centered around early life on the prairie and on the natural environment of the park.

To provide assistance and funds as needed by the park and its staff for equipment, supplies and other items for improvement and maintenance.

Monetary or Time Donations Are Always Welcome.

Text in this publication is the sole responsibility of the authors of the articles and not the responsibility of the Park or the Prairie Partners.

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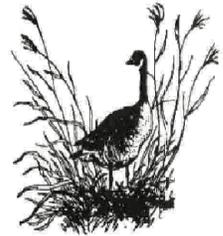


We are on the Web.
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>



\$4.00 in
the gift
shop

Take Only Memories.
Leave Only Footprints.
Thank You Very Kindly



Prairie Partners Participate in the Natural Resource Tour



These students from Minooka were among the many to enjoy the beautiful weather during the Natural Resource Tour, sponsored by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District for Grundy Counties' fifth graders.

Our young visitors were able to hear some local history and stories about pioneer living presented by Prairie Partner's "Grandma Jo" Fleming, be inside the cabin, and imagine what it was like to live 'back then,' in the early days of

settlement here.

A sample of vegetables and grains such as the pioneers grew, and a few animal hides that could be exchanged for 'store-bought' items rounded out our presentation.

Anyone interested in a more relaxed visit is encouraged to come to Cabin Fest, held the Third Saturday (June 15th, 2013).

-photo and article by B. Mansfield

2012 Remembered...

from page three...

Our gift shop is expanding and offering more and more selections. With our new labeling system, we will much more accurately and more efficiently store our materials and help our visitors.

This winter, several members plan to meet in the center to make rugs and do crafts, work on our library, and redo the bulletin board displays. Perhaps the day you decide to visit us this winter, you will see the Prairie Partners in and around the center.

If you have any questions about our activities or would like to join us, please call the visitors center—815-942-2899.

We Hope to see you on the prairie ...

Susie

Susie Johnson,
President

Snowmobiles, or any other motorized vehicles, are not allowed on the trails or otherwise, in Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.