

The Tallgrass Journal

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

Volume 11,
Issue 2



Fundraiser for 2014-Beautiful Partner Handmade Quilt



Our partners, Susie Johnson and Becky Sipple have completed a beautiful green and yellow full size quilt with embroidered flowers titled "A Floral Garden". It will be raffled off during Prairie Day September 20, 2014.

It is proudly on display in the Visitor's Center behind the main desk where you can purchase raffle tickets from now until the 2:30 p.m. drawing.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or a book of 6 for \$5.00. All proceeds are designated for educational events held by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

Please stop by the Center or ask any partner to purchase. We appreciate your support!

Inside this issue:

2014 Fundraiser	1
Cabin Festival 2014	2
Planning your Garden	3
Begin Planting	4
New Additions	5
Calendar of Events	6
Donate and Volunteer	7
Information	8

Park Notes.

The prairie burns have taken place and the beauty of the prairie is beginning to come to life.

Fishing has returned to Heidecke Lake and the fish are biting!
The beautiful new trail panels are installed and identification plates are on the displays in the Visitors Center.

The Visitors Center has new wildlife additions and exhibits for our visitors to learn and enjoy.

Stop by and take in all the displays and photographs of wildlife and insects, and take in a hike for a glimpse of nature at its best. End your day at the Gift Shop and help us continue to support GLPSNA.

Call the park ahead if you want to see if the Visitor's Center is open.
(815) 942-2899



Welcome MaryAnn Davidson to the staff as the new Office Manager. MaryAnn replaces Char McDade.

Char, in her retirement, has joined the Prairie Partners officers as the new Secretary.

Welcome to both ladies in their new roles!

25th Annual Cabin Festival

Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm

June 7, 2014

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

Hosted by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners

At the Cragg Cabin on the Prairie.

—<http://gooselakeprairie.org>—

ENJOY A PART OF HISTORY — OLD TIME CRAFTS — DEMOS — SALES

Violinist Jenny Rohr will Present

FIDDLIN' WITH THE VIOLIN

10:30 A.M. AT THE BASE OF THE OLD
WINDMILL NEAR THE CRAGG CABIN.

Some Chairs will be provided. 35-45 minute performance.

Violinist Brandon Slatton

The Strolling Violinist

Will perform on the grounds of the
Cragg Cabin Compound from 10 am to 3 pm.

OLD TIME CRAFTS MAY INCLUDE: YARN MAKING FROM SHEEP TO SHAWL, LOOM WEAVING OF RAG RUGS, BRAIN TANNING, QUILTING BEE BY LOG CABIN QUILTERS OF MINOOKA, BOBBIN LACING, TATTING, OLE-TIME HANDIWORK, STRAW BRAIDING, WOOD CARVING, ROPE MAKING, BASKET WEAVING, SOAP MAKING, BUCKET MAKING, BLACK POWDER, CHILDREN'S GAMES N' TOYS, LOU AIELLO WITH HIS TRAVELING AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM.

LOOK FOR THE WAGON RIDE OUT TO THE CABIN available behind the visitor's center, THE GIFT SHOP WITH MANY UNIQUE BUYS at the cabin, and THE FOOD SHOP SELLING HOTDOGS, BRATWURST AND BUFFALO BURGERS, SODAS, CHIPS, & COOKIES from 11 am to 2 pm. In front of the Visitor's Center.

Also, participate in The Partner Fundraiser: The "Floral Garden" Full Size Bed Quilt made by the Prairie Partners. The quilt is on display in the Visitors Center.

All proceeds go to educations projects for Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION.

For additional information: Susie Johnson (815) 942-1838

Goose Lake Prairie is located South of Morris, Illinois on Pine Bluff Road.

In case of unruly weather, festivities will move to the Visitor's Center.

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, 5010 N. Jugtown Rd., Morris, IL 60450



Once a site has been selected, the next task should be the actual design of the garden. For this purpose, graph paper works very well to draw and lay out the size, shape, and location of the planting as well as other physical features that will influence the prairie garden such as shrubs, trees, fences, buildings, roads, or ponds (Figures 7 & 8). Also determine the size of the area to be planted in square feet. This will help to determine how many plants are needed for the site and where they should be placed in order to achieve proper balance.

The prairie planting should also be placed at a location away from wooden fences, electrical wiring, gas storage tanks, utility poles, telephone system installations, or other structures that could be harmed by fire if it is used in the management of the site. The wooden structures burn easily, especially utility poles that have been treated with creosote.

Do not use straight lines or blocks in the design of the garden. Straight lines are not found in nature. They will detract from your prairie planting by creating an unnatural border. It is much better to use curves and undulating edges in the prairie planting. Such edges are much more pleasing aesthetically than straight lines. The same concept should also be incorporated into the planting of the prairie plants. Planting in polygons should be adopted instead of rows.

Remember that most prairie grasses are bunch grasses that do not form a sod or turf. They are also warm season plants, meaning that they will grow and flower during the warm summer months unlike Kentucky bluegrass which grows best during the cooler months of the spring and fall. All prairie plants will become larger as they mature, so this needs to be kept in mind as the plant selection takes place.

It is also important to maintain proper balance in the planting. Place tall plants at the sides or back of the garden where they will not obstruct the view of the small ones. If a tall plant is used on one side of the planting, one should be used on the other side to match it.

If the site is going to be managed using prescribed fire, fire breaks should be considered in the planning process. Roads, mowed areas, ponds, or other bodies of water can all be used as firebreaks. It may be necessary to plan for a four to six foot wide firebreak at some location to help contain the fires.

One of the mistakes made in the design and planting of prairie gardens is placing the plants too close together, causing the plants to be crowded and not allowing each plant room to grow and display their graceful forms. Crowded plants also project a rough, coarse appearance to the visitor of the prairie garden. Individual plants must retain their distinctiveness or

or gracefully combine with others of the same species in a group.

FEATURES TO CONSIDER

Prairie plantings should communicate nature to the visitor in an aesthetically pleasing manner. This may be done by appealing to the senses of mankind, including sight, smell, touch and hearing. Like prairie remnants, the prairie garden should demonstrate variety and contrast through flower colors, heights, and blooming times. Each species should contribute to the planting by offering a feature not found in other plants or by providing contrast with other plants nearby. It should be a planting that is alive with insects and the gently swaying leaves of the grasses. Consider the following points as you select species:

Plant height: Prairies are plantings for all seasons for prairies are characterized by constant change. During spring months, the shorter prairie plants are in flower. By summer, the mid-height plants are in bloom, and fall brings the tall prairie grasses and the sunflowers. Variation in plant height through the season is then one major difference that needs to be utilized and considered in the ornamental prairie planting.

Blooming time: In all prairie types there is a progression of blooms beginning in April and continuing until September. In planning the prairie garden plants should be selected that will provide continuous color throughout the growing season.

Flower color: The prairie garden will be greatly enhanced by selecting species that produce several different flower colors. Some of the more common colors are white, pink, blue, yellow, and lavender. Red and orange are not nearly as common, yet plants with these flower colors will greatly enhance your planting. There are also white-flowered forms of spiderwort and several of the blazing star species that, when placed with the normal colored form, will provide a striking contrast.

Leaf size and shape: The leaves of prairie dock contrast sharply with the highly dissected leaves of compass plant or the yucca like leaves of rattlesnake master. The leaves of Illinois bundle flower highly dissected. Consider plants with a variety of leaf shapes and sizes in your planting.

Fragrance: The flowers of some prairie plants are extremely fragrant, like the pasture rose or other roses of the prairies. The seeds of prairie clover and northern dropseed are aromatic, as are the leaves of several of the goldenrods and rosinweed. Bee balm, a mint, has especially aromatic leaves. Plants that have these fragrances and pleasing aromas contribute significantly to the total experience of the planting.

Fall color: The most impressive display of fall colors occurs in the grasses, including big and little bluestem, Indian grass, cord

grass, and gama grass. Shrubs such as black choke cherry, smooth and winged sumac, and hazelnut all have outstanding fall color. Plants having these features should be included in your planting.

Stem color: Certain shrubs, particularly hazelnut with its gray stems and red osier dogwood with its red stems, have colors that are not easily seen until the dormant season. Yet, these colors will add significantly to the planting during the winter as the grasses will retain much of their color throughout the winter months.

Fruit color and shape: The fruits of black chokeberry are a deep purple while rose fruits are mostly red. Red osier dogwood has white fruits in clusters while the fruits of Illinois bundle flower are like crinkled potato chips. Consider the fruit when selecting plants and include as much variety as possible.

Attractiveness to insects: One common interest of many homeowners is plants that will attract butterflies and other insects. If this is an interest of yours, include the coneflowers, blazing stars, and goldenrods in your planting.

Flower color variations: Some prairie wildflowers show considerable variation in flower color throughout the state. One very good example of this is butterfly weed which varies from a butter-yellow color to deep orange. Some of the ray flowers of pale purple coneflower are nearly white, and white-flowered forms of spiderwort and blazing stars are available. These flower forms will add considerable variety and contrast to your prairie planting.

Leaf textures: The surfaces of the leaves of some prairie plants are rough, like wild quinine, rosin weed, or prairie dock. Others are delicate, like Illinois bundle flower and the prairie clovers. Others have sharp or toothed margins, like rattlesnake master or slough grass. Adding plants with these features will create greater diversity, but they will also enable visually handicapped people to learn about prairie plants.

WHAT TO PLANT?

When you begin your prairie garden one of the first questions that will develop is "What do I plant?" If you're planting is small and confined to an area of your yard, use plants instead of seed. Plants or plugs can be placed in the exact spot that you want them. Seeds have the tendency to germinate where they were not planted. By using plants, you are also assured of a vigorous plant that will provide many years of enjoyment. Mature prairie plants are also much easier to distinguish from weed seedlings when they begin to grow than are the seedlings of prairie plants. The material in this text is intended for the backyard gardener.

When deciding what plants to include in your planting, first determine what plants were present in the prairies of your part of the state if your objective is to mimic local prairie types. If your

objective is to create other prairie types, consult texts such as those listed at the back of this publication. Include plants that will be in bloom throughout the year, but be sure to include plants that have interesting leaves, fruits, or growth forms. Plants with good fall color will greatly enhance the beauty of your planting.

The few native prairie remnants that we have must be protected and preserved. Plants should never be dug from the remnants unless they are about to be destroyed. Unfortunately the digging of plants from the wild is becoming more and more common. This practice diminishes the quality of the prairie remnant and prevents others from ever having the opportunity to enjoy the plants in the prairie setting. Many nurseries now sell both seed and plants at reasonable prices.

When planning your prairie garden, do not forget the grasses. Grasses form the matrix of prairies, and they provide contrast with the flowers and growth forms of the prairie wildflowers. Grasses also provide the gentle wind-created movement that is appealing to the viewer. This is one way of communicating nature to visitors of the prairie garden. Two of the best native prairie grasses for landscaping are northern prairie dropseed and little bluestem. Little bluestem also has a silver or glaucous color form which is a strikingly beautiful plant. The growth form of prairie dropseed is reminiscent of a water fountain. When these grasses are used they should be placed in the planting so they can be easily seen and appreciated.

Grasses, goldenrods, asters, coneflowers, cacti, and other prairie plants can be divided by cutting the clump into several separate pieces, making sure that each separate piece has buds and roots. These divisions are then planted like seedlings in the prairie garden. Using this procedure will increase the number of plants and reduce the cost of the project

WHEN TO PLANT

Prairie plants are mostly warm season plants that do not begin their growth until warm weather arrives. If your planting is small and you have decided to use plants instead of seed, try to plant in April or early May before the hot weather of summer arrives. Although there is little growth above ground, the root systems of prairie plants initiate growth at this time. This is also the time of year that precipitation is most abundant, increasing the chances for survival of the seedlings.

Fall is generally not a good time to place prairie seedlings in the ground. From past experiences, many of these will not survive the winter. Others will heave and the crowns will be exposed, resulting in their death. Straw or some other type of mulch can be used to cover the plants to prevent heaving, subsequent exposure, and death.

**This article is an excerpt from *Prairie Establishment and Landscaping – National Heritage Tech. Publication#2*
Next Issue: *Planting, Plant Sites and Prairie Planting***

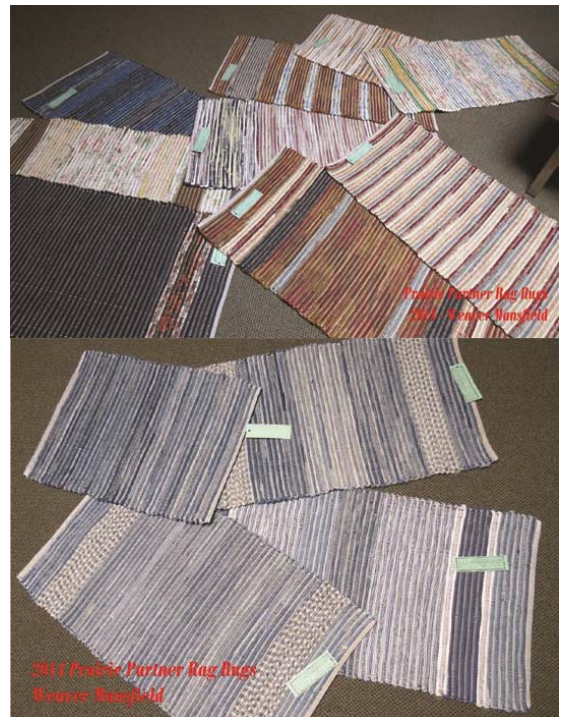
NEW ADDITIONS TO THE VISITORS CENTER AND GIFT SHOP



Supt. Joe Giacone and CPO Dave Wollgast



White tail deer donated by Conservation Police.



New Items in the gift shop. Priced

Goose Lake Prairie Partners Special Events for 2014

Event	Date	Time
25th Annual Cabin Festival	June 07	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<p>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 through the Center and catch the Wagon Ride to the Cragg Cabin. 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. Our Cabin Trail is handicapped accessible.</p>		
8th Annual Nature Photography Contest	August 17 (Sunday)	Noon – 3:00 p.m. Accept photo entries.
	August 21 (Thursday)	6:00 p.m. Closed contest Judging in Auditorium.
	August 22 (Friday)	Partners Prepare exhibit.
	August 23—24 (Sat-Sun)	Exhibit Days during Center hours.
	August 24 (Sunday)	Exhibit Closes 3:30 p.m. -- 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Photo pick up.
<p>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.</p>		
17th Annual Prairie Day	September 20	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
<p>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 an 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 etc. Prairie Day began as an annual activity in 1997. It traditionally falls on the third Saturday of September. Located in and around the Visitor's Center.</p>		
Natural Resource Tour	September ?? <i>(3rd or 4th wk. - date not confirmed)</i>	9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. <i>(Project aimed at 5th Grade Students.)</i>
<p>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.</p>		
Annual Holiday Open House	November 8	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
<p>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.</p>		

Park Happenings

- ◆ Cabin Festival 2014 June 7 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- ◆ Check out our new gift shop additions as well as the latest displays.
- ◆ Don't forget the new trail signs. They are beautiful. And all the plant signs have been placed with a sincere thank you to Bev Mansfield, Joe Nyhoff and Dorothy Nyhoff for their efforts.

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 keep the center open when park staff isn't available.
- 3.) Consider purchasing an item for the park. At the current time our "Want list" includes:

- Caterpillars for the Butterfly Barn. (Seasonal)
- New mounted bird or mammal species
- Park benches to strategically place around the park on various trails.
- New folding chairs for our events.
- New folding tables with plastic tops
- Fund a mural for the Auditorium.
- New bird cam for the center.
- Purchase a chain saw art piece to sit in The Bird Corner

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

Call 815-942-2899 for information.

PARK CONTACTS:

Joe Giacone, Site Superintendent
Mary Ann Davidson, Office Manager
Susie Johnson, Prairie Partner President
Bev Mansfield, Vice-President
Char McDade, Secretary
Jackie Martin, Treasurer/Purch. Agent
Norma Hedges, Gift Shop Chairperson
Becky Sipple, Project Chairman
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. The Tallgrass Journal is published 4 times a year.

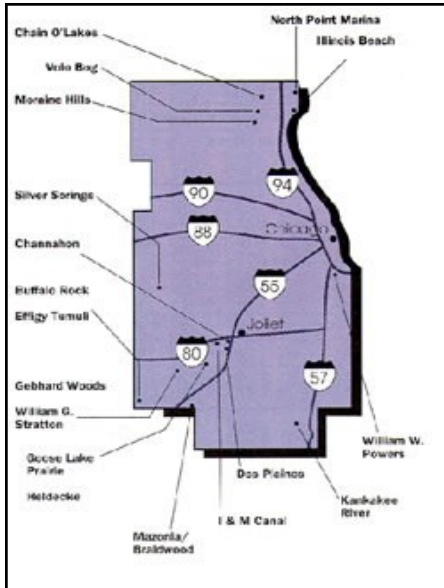
The Tallgrass Journal
 Goose Lake Prairie Partners
 5010 Jugtown Road
 Morris, IL 60450
 Volume 11, Issue 1
 Phone: 815-942-2899



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

Are you Familiar with
 IDNR Region 2:

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



Buffalo Rock State Park & Effigy Tumuli	Illinois and Michigan Canal State Trail
Chain O'Lakes State Park	Kankakee River State Park
Channahon State Park	Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area
Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area	Moraine Hills State Park
Gebhard Woods State Park	North Point Marina
Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area	Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area
James "Pate" Philip State Park (Tri-County)	Volo Bog State Natural Area
Heidecke Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area	William G. Stratton State Park
Illinois Beach State Park	William W. Powers State Recreation Area

Learn More
 About Nature
 In Illinois
 Visit Our
 State Parks.

Map courtesy of the American Park Network

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 Region II Office
 2050 W. Stearns Rd.
 Bartlett, IL 60103
 847/608-3100

Do you use Google Earth?
 Download [DNR Sites Overlay](#) for Google Earth.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you for all the positive responses on my first issue. I hope you enjoy this one as well. Please let us know if you are at the park and anything you enjoyed or would like to see.

Our events begin in June. Make sure to plan the day and spend it with us.

Jackie Martin
 Editor

We welcome hiking, photographers, naturalists, bird watching and pets on a leash. No motorized vehicles on park trails. Please stay on marked trails.