

The Tallgrass Journal

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

Volume 9, Issue 3



Park News:

Winner Of The Youth T-Shirt from Cabin Festival

Susie Johnson, President of the Prairie Partners, was happy to present Xavier Corum, Age 6 (son of Kevin and Shelley Corum of Morris) with a Prairie Partner T-Shirt as the winner of the Animal Tracks Contest held June 2, 2012 at the Cabin Festival at the Park. He knew all of the tracks that were on the table.



50th Wedding Anniversary

Joe & Dorothy Nyhoff celebrated 50 years of marriage with a wonderful open house at their home July 14. Joe was the first Superintendent at Goose Lake Prairie, retiring in 2006. We have many fond memories of working with Joe at the Park. Staff, Partners and Friends of Goose Lake Prairie wish them well.

A Migration of Painted Ladies in Goose Lake Butterfly Barn

A batch of Painted Lady butterflies are now hatching and are being released in the Butterfly Barn. Joey Sipple of Morris and his grandmother Becky Sipple arrived just in time at the center July 26 to see several let loose, in fact Joey even lent a hand...

This batch was sponsored by the Alida C. Bliss Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sipple Family of Morris, IL.

If you would like to purchase a batch of butterflies to assist in educating our visitors call 815 -942-2899. The cost is \$50.00

Pictured with Joey is Art Rohr, Park Staff.



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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.

The staff cautions you to bring bug spray, watch for ticks, and be prepared for mosquitoes. Though it may be dry, the bugs are still very active...

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.

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

Calendar of Events

From April through August—Guided Wagon Rides and Walks. Call for Information.

- *6th Annual Nature Photo Contest—August 12–19 See page 4-5 for more...*
- *15th Annual Prairie Day—September 15th. Flyers coming soon.*

*Prairie Partners work in the Center Weekends to assist you during your visits to the park.
Call the park desk for more information on any of our activities—(815) 942-2899*



**OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR
HAS FULLY
FUNDED THE
PRAIRIE DAY EVENT
SINCE 2001.**

**IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE WELCOME
THE FINE FOLKS AT MIDWEST GENERATION
AND ALL OUR VISITORS, YOUNG AND OLD,
FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS,
TO ENJOY THE WILDLIFE AND
PRAIRIE PRESENTATIONS WITH US AT OUR
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PRAIRIE DAY**

September 15th from 10 AM to 3:30 PM

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

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



\$4.00 each

15th Annual Prairie Day Coming Together With Many Opportunities . . .

Opportunities to see many Animals, Reptiles and Birds:



Dave DiNaso and the Traveling World of Reptiles—A most entertaining and up-close, live, hands-on, experience about reptiles and amphibians from around the world!! At 10:45 a.m.



Scales & Tales Animal Show Traveling Zoo had many animals to share and gives each child a chance to touch and feed the animals. 12:00 p.m.

The Illinois Raptors Center Presents a program. At 2:30 p.m.



VISIT THE ILLINOIS WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM TRAILER AT THE EDGE OF THE PARKING LOT. All Day.



All park Amenities will be available, trails, butterfly barn, picnic areas, and the museum in the center.

Remember to visit the Food Tent for lunch of Hot Dogs, Brats or Buffalo Burgers. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also the Gift Shop will be located in the lobby of the Center, carrying lots of nature books and park shirts and hats all day. Sign up for quilt chances, and Wagon Rides at the center service desk. (Color photo of Quilt is on Partner Website)

SAVE THE DATE:

**SEPTEMBER 15TH AT GOOSE LAKE
PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA**

FROM 10:00 AM TO 3:30 PM.

Opportunity to Visit with Author Jannifer Powelson at 10:00



a.m. and
Mistini, the
Magician at
12:00 noon.

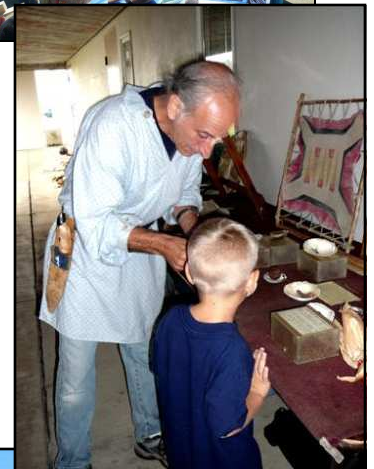


Then, play a



nature game with Linda Roberts available all day.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE FROM LOU AIELLO THROUGH HIS TRAVELING AMERICAN INDIAN EXHIBIT All Day



AND JOIN JUDI JACKSOHN ON ONE OF THE THREE WAGON RIDES (10.00 a.m., 12:00 noon & 2:00 p.m.) AND TALK ABOUT THE PRAIRIE PLANTS.



August 12-19, 2012

The Sixth Annual Nature Photo Contest

Presented by Goose Lake Prairie Partners and Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

(Contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages (those deriving less than 25% of their income from photography.)

PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST CATEGORIES:

Adult Division:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1.) Color Plants | 5.) Color Landscape | 10.) Black & White Landscapes |
| 2.) Color Animals | 6.) Black & white Plants | 11.) Color Goose Lake Prairie SNA |
| 3.) Color Birds | 7.) Black & White Animals | 12.) Black & White Goose Lake Prairie SNA |
| 4.) Color Insects | 8.) Black & White Birds | |
| | 9.) Black & white Insects | |

Youth Division:

- Y1.) Plants
- Y2.) Animals
- Y3.) Birds & Insects
- Y4.) Landscape

Categories in Youth contain both color and B/W prints.

ELIGIBILITY: Photos in categories 1 through 10 must depict natural objects and features only, and show no signs of human interference. Examples of human interference include, but are not limited to, utility poles, mowed grass, pavements, buildings, etc.

Photos in categories 1 through 10 must be taken in Illinois, and must depict native or naturalized flora and fauna (i.e. -- no domesticated gardens or landscaping plants, exotic plants from public gardens, pets, livestock, exotic zoo animals, etc.)

Category 11 & 12 must be taken in Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, with humans and/or human constructs (such as groomed pathways, shelters, boats, fishing gear, etc) being acceptable but not required. More than just "record shots," in this category, we wish to capture the essence of how visitors enjoy nature while visiting Goose Lake Prairie. Do not pick or move plants and do not handle the animals in State Parks. Stay on designated park trails.

Youth division (Children under 16 years of age.) categories will contain both color and black and white prints.

Digitalized prints will be accepted and judged, but must be the exclusive work of the maker **without computer enhancement; i.e. there should be no removal (cloning out) of any part of the image, and no superimposing or adding of elements not in original image. Images that are overly processed will be disqualified.**

The Prairie Partners Photo Committee will review the eligibility of entries. Decisions of the committee regarding eligibility will be final.

PREPARATION: All photos must be mounted with a single mount. (Photos may be matted or flush mounted on mat or foam core board) **Mats or foam core board no larger than 11 inches X 14 inches. Smaller or larger entries will not be accepted.**

The window/photo may range in size from 5" X 7" to 11" x 14" - one print per mount. **Frames or glass of any kind will not be accepted.** On the back of the mat, securely tape the completed ENTRY FORM only.

Entries with writing on the front will not be accepted. All entries must be titled.

Plastics or other protective covering may be used for transporting photographs, but will be removed when the photo is displayed and may not be restored upon return.

SUBMISSIONS: Entrants may submit up to three prints per category; and **up to twelve total entries.** Feel free to make as many photocopies of the entry form as needed. There is no entry fee. The entrant must have taken the photographs.

Photos entered in previous years contest should not be resubmitted. Photos should have been taken within the last two years.

SELECTION: A committee of qualified photography judges will select First, Second and Third place in each of the twelve categories and the four youth categories, and Best of Show. Goose Lake Prairie Partners will select the Partners' Pick. People's Choice will be selected by a ballot of visitors to the Exhibit. Ribbons will be awarded.

DATES: Bring entries to the Visitor's Center at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL) on Sunday, August 12, 2012 from Noon until 3:00 p.m. The first 100 entries are guaranteed acceptance.

*Entry into the photo contest implies permission to use entered photo(s) in IDNR and affiliated publications, as well as in general circulation publications. Photos may be utilized in non-profit fund-raising activities without compensation to the photographer."

Gather your best prints! Bring them in! Join the friendly competition!

Entry Form

Nature Photo Contest

One entry form per photo. Please make copies of form for each photo and attach securely to the back of the photo. Limit three (3) entries per category.

Please print clearly.

Name:					
Address:					
City:				State:	Zip:
Day Phone:			Evening Phone:		
TITLE:					
Color Plant	Color Animal	Color Birds	Color Insects	Color Landscape	Color GLPSNA
B/W Plant	B/W Animal	B/W Birds	B/W Insects	B/W Landscape	B/W GLPSNA
NEW Youth Division <small>under 16 yrs of age</small>		Plants	Animals	Birds-Insects	Landscape

Revised 7-3-2012

PHOTO RULES CONTINUED.

EXHIBIT: Photos will be exhibited August 18 and 19 in the Visitor's Center during regular hours until 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Photos may be picked up on Sunday, August 19 from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. If pickup cannot be accomplished on this date, call (815) 942-2899 to arrange pickup.

**After September 1, photos remaining will become the property of GLPSNA.*

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area Staff and Goose Lake Prairie Partners will exercise all reasonable precautions in handling the entries. However, none of the forgoing names, or those associated with said organizations, will assume any responsibility for damages to or loss of any entry

Instructions & entry forms are on our website:
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>

Revised 7/3/2012



2011 People's Choice:

"FIGHTING FOXES"
 BY DON BELCHA OF COAL CITY

Reminder:

We urge everyone to follow the rules carefully and mat the prints correctly.

Pictures are disqualified if they do not meet the requirements.

Good Luck to all our exhibitors and contestants.



Partners Hold Quilt Fundraiser 2012 To Benefit the Park

"Study in Blue"

Twin Size Quilt

1 ticket for \$1.00

OR

6 tickets for \$5.00

**The drawing will be
September 15, 2012**

at the Prairie Day Event.

This lovely Quilt has been a project of Prairie Partner Becky Sipple who contributed the fabrics and did the piecing. The Quilting was donated by Ann Register. The quilting pattern is Brown Eyed Susan. This quilt 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 prize must be picked up in 30 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 which case, the raffle date will be changed to allow a longer period to sell.



Water in GLPSNA is low, due to the hot conditions...

The drought has left the majority of the ponds at the park dried up much like the one in this photo. Only one of the ponds has a water supply. That would be the one in front of the Cragg Cabin. That one has a rock bottom and has very little water in it at the end of July, even though it does have a windmill that pumps water into it. What little water was there last week was surrounded by a Great Blue Heron and a few Egrets looking for a meal I assume.

— Susie J.

Park Happenings

Near Drought Conditions Hits Goose Lake Prairie

I visited the prairie just this last week and the changes that are so evident were brought on by the terribly warm weather. For late July/early August we are not seeing the flowers that we normally would this time of year. Though we still see some butterflies and some dragonflies, they are not as plentiful as they should be. The ponds are dry except for one or two and the grass trails are now brown with dried plants.

I did see a bunny rabbit or two, no pheasants recently. The water birds are looking hard for any spot of water they can see. Even the windmill cannot keep the pond in front of the Cragg cabin full of water nowadays. While I did see a frog a couple weeks back, I haven't seen any recently.

The visitors stop in the center and tell us what they saw and share their walking adventures, but the heat of the day seems to dominate the stories. Everyone is carrying water bottles everywhere.

Does this mean it is not worth your while to visit Goose Lake Prairie? On the contrary, I am telling you my experiences so you can come and see what is happening when the heat of the day warms the prairie. The plants have to reach lower in the soil to get nourishment. Those with short root systems are not doing so well but those with longer roots are surviving. Do not worry, as long as the root system is intact, we will have a blooming prairie again when it rains or next spring.

By Susie Johnson, President, GLPP

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 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 if volunteers work the center.

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

- Caterpillars for the Butterfly Barn. (Seasonal.) \$50.00 investment.
- 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
- Purchase a chain saw art piece to sit in Bird Corner.

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.

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

Call 815-942-2899

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.

The Tallgrass Journal is published 4 times a year: Jan, April, July and Oct.

The Tallgrass Journal

Goose Lake Prairie State
Natural Area

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Morris, IL 60450

Volume 9, Issue 3

Phone: 815-942-2899

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



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



Photo Blind Finally Complete With A Bird Exhibit To Help Identify Birds...



Just this last week, the Partners were assisted by Park Staff with a new display in the Photo Blind. We now have bird silhouettes to assist our birders in identifying flying and roosting birds in the vicinity of the Photo Blind.

This project has been a long standing one supported by the Brenda Kaluzny Memorial Fund and the Prairie Partners. With the aid of Will Green, Tech II, and his staff, we were able to paint the building, add a bench and set the building in the original location of the first blind that once stood in it's place.

Now our visitors have a place to sit and wait for the arrival of the birds, rest in shade or get in out of the rain in case of a wet spell in the park.

We ask that our visitors to the blind be sure to carry out what you carry in. Shut the windows and door as you exit this facility.



Blind as seen from the lake side...



A visit to the Park is often considered a step back in time, a visit with nature, or just a chance for solitude.

Friendly faces greet you in the visitor's center and often will walk a trail with you, visit the Butterfly Barn and help you identify plants, etc.

If you would like a guided walk or wagon ride, advanced notice is required. Call the visitors center for more information.

815-942-2899.

Do not forget to check yourselves for Ticks. While the Prairie is very dry and warm this time of year, the pests have beat you here and would like to go home with you. Check you pets also, if they walked with you today.