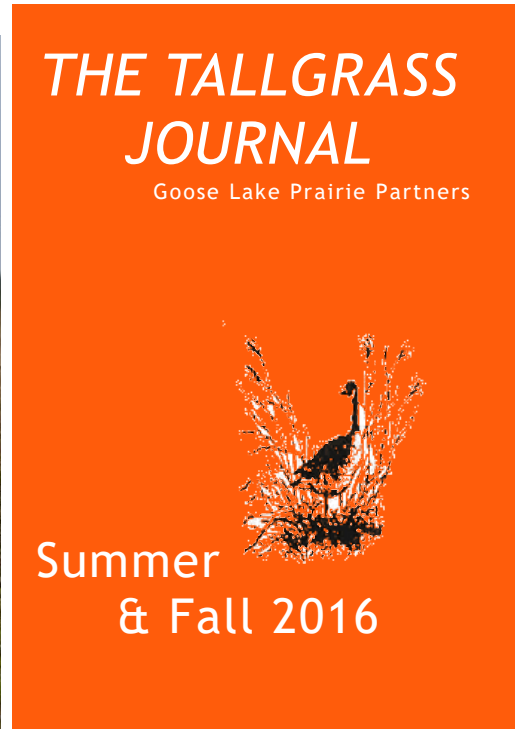




5010 N JUGTOWN ROAD, MORRIS, ILLINOIS



Announcing...

Our 2016 IDNR Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Past President Susie Johnson. Congratulations and well deserved for all your hard work!



Susie Johnson accepted her award from Director Rosenthal on August 20, 2016 at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield IL

And Our New President-Char McDade



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Lazy Squirrel by Rex Termain
Peoples Choice Award

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area Was the Site of the Prairie Partner's Tenth Annual Nature Photography Contest/Exhibit. Winners are announced.

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area Was the Site of the Prairie Partner's Tenth Annual Nature Photography Contest/Exhibit. Ron Hodgen's "Wagon Sunset" won Best in Show. Prairie Partners volunteer group sponsored the show at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.



Wagon Sunset by Ron Hodgens
Best in Show

Photo entries depict the flora, fauna, and natural environment in the Illinois state parks. 74 prints were submitted on Sunday August 7th at the GLPSNA Visitors Center. Two prints were from the Youth Division.

Judging was held August 10th. The judges were John Zappia, Betty Zappia and Bob Engle of Morris Camera Club. Visitors to the Center during the weekend chose the People's Choice winning photo. Goose Lake Prairie Partners chose the Prairie Partner winning photo.

We would like to thank all the entrants, the Free Press and Morris Daily Herald, along with The Morris Camera Club for their support of our event. For a list of all the winners, visit our website at gooselakeprairie.org and click on the Nature Photo Contest.



Song Sparrow by Janet Schleeter
Best in Black & White



Windy Hill by Griffyn Cowell
Best in Youth Division



The Boys by Erica Cowell
Prairie Partner Pick



Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
19th Annual Prairie Day
September 17, 2016 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This event, held in conjunction with National Prairie Week, focuses on the prairie's environment and beyond.

CELEBRATE WITH US!

- ❑ Incredible Bats along with Baxter & Bella, accompanied by the Petersons - 10:00
- ❑ The Traveling World of Reptiles with Dave DiNaso - 11:00
- ❑ Mazonia Fossils with Dr. Sam Heads, Illinois State Paleontologist - 1:00
- ❑ Brian Holt, Magician and Balloon Artist - 2:00
- ❑ Lou Aiello's American Indian Traveling Museum and demonstrations, with guest participation, Indian dancing on the front lawn all day.
- ❑ Illinois Natural History Survey's Traveling Science Center Mobile all day with Mike Davis.
- ❑ Interpretive Wagon Ride on the prairie - Cragg Cabin ride at 11:00; Prairie Rides at 12:00, 1:15, and 2:30. Get free tickets at ticket master's table in front of center.
- ❑ Old favorites always open: Cragg Cabin, Butterfly Barn, Nature Trails, & Picnic areas.
- ❑ Purchase a chance for the Homemade Twin Size Quilt "Grandma's Fan" on display in the center. Drawing Sept. 17 at 2:30 p.m.
- ❑ Visit the Prairie Partners Gift Shop in the Center. Profits benefit projects & programs.
- ❑ Prairie Partner Food Tent in front of the Center; open from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- ❑ Visit with an Exelon Representative on the grounds.

Sponsor



Exelon Generation®



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

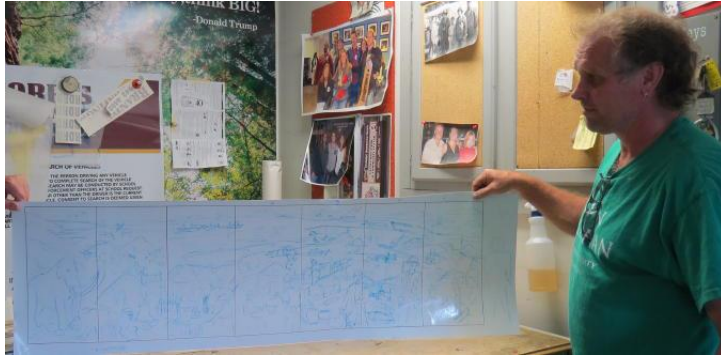
Driving directions:

Take Route 47 south of the Illinois River to Pine Bluff Road; East about 6 miles to Jugtown Rd. Watch for Park Sign. Take I-55, South of Kankakee River; take Lorenzo Rd West about 6 miles to Jugtown Rd. Watch for park sign. Continue to the stop sign; turn right to the Visitors Center parking area. For more information call 815-942-2899. Visit the website: <http://gooselakeprairie.org/prairieday.htm>



No Parking Fees - No Entrance Fees

FREE FAMILY FUN



Update on our Mural Project

By Chuck Johnson

Left: Ray Grossi with a preliminary sketch of what is expected to appear on each panel.

Mural Project at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area is a project of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners. Chairman of the project is Chuck Johnson of Morris, IL. What follows is a description of the progress so far.

Our mural will be unveiled September 10th to an invited group who donated their money and/or time in moving the project along. About fifty to sixty people are expected.

It's on-going because the mural is only part of the overall mural project. The mural suggests many topics of interest to the viewers. The idea was to video interviews with people knowledgeable of a topic and then play the interviews through the new partner donated projector in the park auditorium.

During the first meeting with the videographers, one suggested we put the interviews on the Park's website so millions would be able to view them and learn about the area. The videographers were Joliet Junior College students taking a special intern course designed around our interviews. The summer term allowed for six interviews. These six must be approved by the I.D.N.R. before they can be uploaded to the park website, but can be viewed on the screen.

The first six listed below are part of nearly fifty interviews planned.

- Ken Sereno on the development of the Morris Area and Chief Shabbona
- Michele Micetich on the life of coal miners in Felix Township
- Dan Kirk, DNR Biologist, on the biology of a prairie park
- Joe Nyhoff, first park superintendent, on the Park's early days
- Joe Wheeler and Kelly Gutknecht, Naturalist at Midewin Natural Wildlife Refuge on bison
- Ray Grossi, the Muralist, about the planning and painting of the mural

Over forty more topics are planned to be recorded over the next several months. They range from glaciers, mega fauna and paleo-indians to quilting, nuclear power stations, and the Park's flora and fauna. Several PHDs from state universities will be interviewed.



J.J.C. will be providing four interns for the fall term and one of the summer interns will help to oversee the fall shooting. Additional funding will be required to continue the educational interviews. A goal of three thousand dollars is being projected to help pay for these educational interviews.

Left: This is an early shot of the progress of the mural. Artist is Ray Grossi of the Midwest Signworks Company in Morris.

PRAIRIE PARTNER WORKSHOPS



During the months of March – November, the Prairie Partners meet once a month to plan the year's events, select committees for each event, discuss any fund raising activities, and schedule workshops to create beautiful rugs and quilts like our current fundraiser "Grandma's Fan" that we proudly display in the Visitors Center until the winner is announced during our Prairie Day festivities.

Beyond this, they can also be seen staffing the visitors center, creating educational displays for our guests, weeding the gardens and butterfly barn, cleaning the cabin, assisting the park staff in putting on the wagon cover, funding or assisting the making any repairs, and cutting up strips to make the beautiful handmade rugs that are sold in the Visitors Center.

If you would like to join our group, please contact Chuck Johnson at 815-942-1838. He will be glad to discuss with you and provide the necessary forms for you to begin your journey as a Prairie Partner.



IDNR Conducting Survey, Planning Statewide Summit on Coordinating Monarch Butterfly Conservation in Illinois



Identifying ways to improve and increase habitat for monarch butterflies in Illinois is the focus of a new online survey this month and a planned conservation summit meeting in Springfield this September.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), along with partners representing agriculture, transportation or utility rights-of-way, conservation lands, urban, and educational sectors are working to develop a plan to increase monarch butterfly habitat in Illinois.

“A first step is to identify ongoing monarch conservation efforts so that we can better coordinate among them to create more butterfly

habitat where it is needed,” said Ann Holtrop, chief of the IDNR Division of Natural Heritage. “A survey has been developed to capture all of the diverse activities that are occurring for monarch butterfly conservation throughout the state.”

Monarch butterfly populations have declined by as much as 90 percent over the last two decades. In the past year, Illinois has been designated as a high priority area for monarch conservation in strategies developed both by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. The monarch butterfly is the Illinois state insect, and the monarch was identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the most recent Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

Results of the online survey will be analyzed and shared with interested groups and organizations during a statewide summit on monarch butterfly conservation to be held at the IDNR headquarters in Springfield on September 9.

From the President's Desk by Char McDade

Friends and Visitors:

I am honored to be the next President of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners and I welcome you to Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

I retired on December 31, 2013 as the Office Coordinator at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area after 15 years working for IDNR. On January 1, 2014, I became a member of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners. I was elected Secretary of the GLPP in May 2014.

I have always loved nature and the prairie. I look forward working with the Goose Lake Prairie Partners on All their educational family activities at the park and look forward to Prairie Day on September 17, 2016.

Yours in Conservation,
Charlene M. McDade



Goose Lake Prairie Partners, Inc

Special Events for 2016

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

31st Annual Cabin Festival	June 4	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/craggcabinfestival.htm
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. Visit the gift shop and food tent. The event is to celebrate cabin living and life in the 1830's. Location is in and around Cragg Cabin North North-East of the Visitors Center. Sponsor is CPV Three Rivers Energy Center.		
10th Annual Nature Photography Contest	August 7 (Sunday)	Noon – 3:00 p.m. Accept photo entries.
	August 11 (Thursday)	6:00 p.m. Closed contest Judging in Auditorium.
	August 12 (Friday)	Partners Prepare exhibit.
	August 13-14 (Sat-Sun)	Exhibit Days during Center hours.
	August 14 (Sunday)	Exhibit Closes 3:30 p.m. -- 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Photo pick up. http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/naturephotocontest.htm
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, <u>photographs are to be taken in state parks in Illinois</u>. See our website for details. All activities are in the Visitor's Center.		
19th Annual Prairie Day	September 17	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/prairieday.htm
The Annual Prairie Day celebrates the prairie environment at the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450. It is in conjunction with National Prairie Week. Prairie Day began as an annual activity in 1997. It traditionally falls on the Saturday of the third full week in September. Other park amenities are open during the Festival. Visit the butterfly barn, the picnic areas and play yards. Walk the trails and look into the Cragg Cabin. Profits from all events are used for future educational programs. Sponsor is Exelon Generations Dresden Station. Located in and around the Visitor's Center.		
Natural Resource Tour	September 21 - 23	9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Directed by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District; (<i>Project aimed at 5th Grade School Children.</i>) This event is <u>closed to the public</u> . The Prairie Partners are responsible for the Cabin History Presentations to area schoolchildren. Activities happen in and around the Cragg Cabin and the visitor's Center.		
Annual Holiday Open House	November 12	1 p.m. - 3 p.m. http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/pioneerholidayparty.htm
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 in the visitor's center. Hot apple cider and homemade cookies will be served. Located in the Visitors Center.		

Desk Service on Weekends Project Begins April 1 and Ends with Holiday Open House Nov 12th

All dates are subject to change. No rain dates will be assigned.

Visit the website: <http://gooselakeprairie.org> & like us on Facebook.

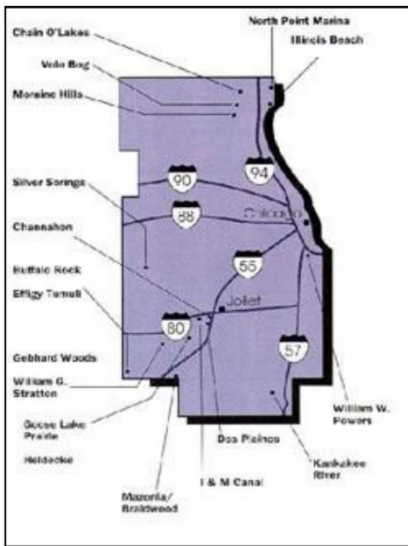
The Tallgrass Journal
 Goose Lake Prairie Partners
 5010 Jugtown Road
 Morris, IL 60450

Phone: 815-942-2899

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



Are you Familiar with
 IDNR Region 2:



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.

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 & Wildlife Area | Moraine Hills State Park |
| Gebhard Woods State Park | North Point Marina |
| Goose Lake Prairie State Natura 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.

To our Readers:
 We hope you enjoy this issue.

We have been busy with our events, our Mural project and workshops to keep the park beautiful and our gift shop full. We are proud of our volunteers and the hard work they put in each year to present meaningful educational experiences for our visitors.

Stop in, introduce yourself or better yet join us. We can always use the support and friendship!

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.