

**ParkLands Foundation
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Eric Smith

Find us on the web at:
www.parklands.org

**Newsletter
February 2006 –
March 2006**

ParkLands 2006 Calendar of Events

Sat., 11 February	Invasive Species	Merwin, South Gate	9:00 AM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 18-February	Autumn Olive	Merwin, South Gate	9:00 AM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 4-March	Prescribed Burn	Ridgetop Hill Prairie	12:00 PM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 11-March	Prescribed Burn	Merwin, West Gatey	12:00 PM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 18-March	Prescribed Burn Alternate March 25	Merwin, Prairie Gate-South	12:00 PM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 25-March	Prescribed Burn Alternate April 1	Lexington Prairie	2:00 PM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sun., 16-April	Early Spring Wild-flower Walk	Merwin, South Gate	1:00 PM	Dale Birkenholz
Sat., 29-April	Garlic Mustard Control	Merwin, South Gate	9:00 AM	TBA
Sat., 6-May	Garlic Mustard Control	Merwin, South Gate	9:00 AM	TBA
Sun., 14-May	Late Spring Wild-flower Walk	Merwin, West Gate	1:00 PM	TBA
Sat., 03-June	Sweet Clover Control	Merwin, West Gate	9:00 AM	Mary Horgan
Sat., 01-July	General Maintenance	Merwin, West Gate	9:00 AM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 05-August	General Maintenance	Merwin, West Gate	9:00 AM	Tim Lindenbaum
Sat., 23 Sept.	Seed Collection	Towanda-FS Fast Stop	9:00 AM	Mary Horgan
September	Annual Meeting	TBA	TBA	
Sat., 28-October	Seed Collection	Cayuga Ridge (no. of Pontiac)	9:00 AM	TBA
Sat. 04 November	Prescribed Burn Alternate Nov. 11	Moon Prairie, Lake Bloomington	12:00 PM	Tim Lindenbaum
Nov. 17-18-19	Annual Doe Hunt	Preserves Closed		
Sat., 4-December	Seed Cleaning	Bloomington Parks & Rec. Maintenance Bldg	9:00 AM	TBA

Contact information for the leaders listed above:

Tim Lindenbaum 309-531-7065 Dale Birkenholz 309-452-8086
Mary Horgan 309-527-5636

NOTE: Dates of scheduled events are subject to change. To receive up-to-date information, ask Tim Lindenbaum to put you on the email contact list. Tim can be reached at tlindenbaum@dtnspeed.net or 309-531-7065.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Articles on honeysuckle control (Bill Roth), sudden oak death (Becky Anderson), lesser known ParkLands properties (Dale Birkenholz, Mark Wyman)
THANK YOU! Gerry Savage for editing the newsletter. Gretchen Monti takes over with this issue.
WANTED: Someone to help Tim Lindenbaum maintain the ParkLands Foundation website. Contact him at tlindenbaum@dtnspeed.net or 309-531-7065

PARKLANDS REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSHIP

ParkLands Foundation has reached an agreement with Money Creek Township for a shared-use site that will enhance the ParkLands' mission while assisting a local government body. In early 2005, the Township approached ParkLands and expressed their dire need for 2½ acres of land along the P.J. Keller highway. The Township needed a central location along a major road for a Morton building, primarily for storing road equipment. Since ParkLands receives Township services, especially winter road clearing, and doesn't pay property taxes, we were receptive to discussions as to how we could assist Money Creek, so long as the adverse impacts for ParkLands were balanced by positive factors.

An ad hoc ParkLands' Committee consulted with scientists on our Board who analyzed the situation and recommended that if a site was to be considered then the most suitable location would be the southeastern-most corner of the Merwin Preserve. The scientists recommended this location because there is already a residential house adjacent to the property, on the busy county highway, resulting in minimal additional visual and edge effects for the preserve.

The Township was very considerate of the needs of ParkLands and its mission. The Township will allow visitors to the Merwin preserve to use the amenities (restrooms, parking, water fountains) associated with this building to allow increased access to and im-

prove visitors' experience with the Merwin nature preserve. We are hopeful that a portion of the facility might also be used for education programs as that portion of the mission of ParkLands expands in coming years. The Township also agreed to work with us in establishing an important new canoe launch on land it owns on the south side of the nearby Keller bridge over the Mackinaw River.

The Township will be decommissioning township road 2040E on the south-central border of ParkLands which will benefit ParkLands in several regards, including addition to the acreage that ParkLands will lose for the Township site. ParkLands will also be removing the unsightly non-functional power line that extends into the preserve from Keller Highway.

The Board did not make its decision to allow placement of a structure on our property lightly. The ability to provide increased access to our prime nature preserve for members and the public, and being a responsible member of the local community, were considered to outweigh the development of a portion of our property. The canoe launch will also provide additional recreational benefits.

If anyone wants more details on this decision, or would like to discuss their concerns, please give me a call (438-5124) or email (apcappar@ilstu.edu).

Angelo Capparella
ParkLands President

TRACES OF WINTER



Photo by Gerry Savage

Address Service Requested

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