

ParkLands Foundation

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

Newsletter
August – September
2006

Annual Meeting

Where & when: The annual ParkLands meeting will be held on Sunday, September 17, at the Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove. Lunch will be at noon followed by the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Reservations: The cost of the meal is \$10 per person. Call or e-mail John Franklin or mail the registration form below by September 3 to make your meal reservations.

Speaker: Elizabeth Cisar, Natural Areas Program Officer of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, will speak on "Private Land Conservation in Illinois: Recent History & Challenges for the Future". The ICECF is the foundation that provided a grant to ParkLands to purchase the Letcher Basin Nature Preserve this year. Elizabeth has been a leader in fostering a statewide organization of land conservation groups, of which ParkLands is a charter member.

Nomination and election of Directors: The Nominating Committee will present a slate of Executive Committee members for election.

About Sugar Grove Nature Center: The Sugar Grove Nature Center officially opened in October 2004. It contains interpretive exhibits, educational displays, live animals, a children's discovery den and a bird observation room. Field trips are conducted year-round for all ages.

Angela Smith, the director of Sugar Grove Nature Center, has been working in environmental education for 14 years. Angela also serves on the ParkLands Foundation board.

DIRECTIONS:

From Bloomington, take I-55 South to the Shirley exit, #154 (first exit south of Bloomington).

Turn right at the top of the off-ramp.

Turn left at the T-intersection onto Old Route 66.

Proceed approximately 4.5 miles to Funks Grove Road. Turn right.

Proceed over railroad tracks, and take the first left.

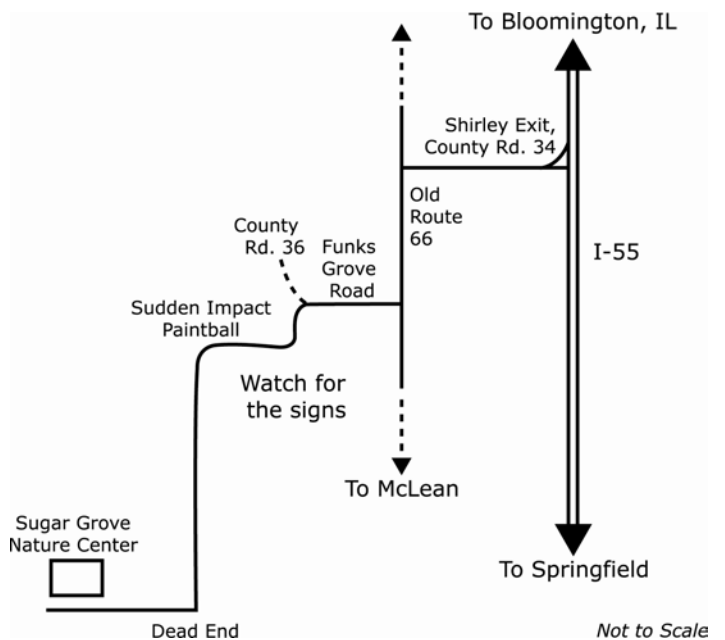
At this point, there will be signs for Sugar Grove Nature Center.

Follow this road, being careful of the two dangerous curves.

At the Dead End sign, continue straight.

The road opens up to prairie and the nature center buildings will be on your right.

When you come to the gravel lane, turn right, and proceed to the parking lot.



2006 ParkLands Foundation Annual Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

Number of Meals: _____

Payment enclosed: _____ **Will pay at the door:** _____

(\$10 per meal. Make check payable to ParkLands Foundation.)

Please make your reservation with John Franklin by September 3rd:

Mail this form to John at 402 South St., Lexington, IL 61753 or

E-mail your reservation to John at jfranklin@accelectronix.com or

Call John at home at 309-365-4081.

Sudden Oak Death: Not here, but we should be vigilant

One of the unintended by-products of international trade and travel is the increasing number of invasive species reaching continents far from their origin, including the familiar garlic mustard, purple loosestrife and destructive pests such as Asian long-horned beetle, emerald ash borer and Sudden Oak Death. Even with the best efforts at vigilance and control, we can expect that one or all of these diseases will reach forests, urban landscaping and horticultural businesses across the US. An example of a problem that is best approached by keeping it away is Sudden Oak Death. You may wonder how you or ParkLands are affected. Is Sudden Oak Death in Illinois? Should we worry about our oak forests? What should the ordinary forest enthusiast do?

As of spring 2006, Sudden Oak Death was not in Illinois or the Midwest. However, our oak forests have species that are susceptible, including red oaks, pin oaks and possibly black oaks. The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service and state agencies have established monitoring and screening programs to detect at the earliest moment the presence of the disease, to prevent spread and eradicate it. Extensive research is being conducted about how it is spread, what species are susceptible and potential control mechanisms, including fungicides and forest and horticultural management practices.

Sudden Oak Death is at least as serious a potential threat as the Chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease proved to be. Since the mid 1990's Californians have been observing sudden die off of native live oaks and tanoaks in coastal forests and towns. It has become established in 14 coastal counties, 1 county in southwest Oregon, and identified on horticultural plants in at least 21 states. Casual visitors to California coastal forests see 30-50% of the trees dead. In these two oaks and related species, including red oak, pin oak, beech and horse chestnut, the disease causes weeping cankers on the trunk, followed by death within a few weeks or months. DNA research has shown it was most likely brought into the country on horticultural plants. It was identified in Europe before discovery in the US. The disease has spread widely in Europe, and has the potential to devastate US deciduous forests, urban landscapes and horticultural businesses. It is not yet known how many tree species are likely to be susceptible, but there is an initial list of 41 known host species and genera on which it reproduces, and more than 50 "associated species" on which it also grows. Associated species include many herbaceous and shrub understory plants.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and Phytophthora leaf blight, which causes leaf spots on other species without necessarily killing the plant, are two diseases caused by

the same organism, *Phytophthora ramorum*.

P. ramorum may be spread from species that are not killed to plants on which it is fatal. Wild and horticultural species especially likely to harbor the pathogen include Camellias, Rhododendrons, Viburnums, and many others shipped from large plant nurseries nationwide. Camellias from one California nursery in 2002 were distributed to nurseries in most states. Investigation and testing identified the pathogen on plants in a number of locations, and cleanup was costly. In 2006 a Florida nursery had infected plants again, despite nursery sanitation and destruction of 1000s of plants. Probably the disease remained alive in soil. As consumers of horticultural plants, you should find out if your plant nursery receives any shipments from potentially infected locations and if they have been inspected for *Phytophthora ramorum*. A program is in place to educate horticulturists about regulations and safe practices.

Visitors to potentially infected areas in California, Oregon and Washington can avoid accidentally bringing the disease home. What a sad souvenir! Follow parking regulations, stay on trails and clean up after visiting. The pathogen rides along in soil. Avoid wet or muddy areas. Clean boots, especially the grooves in hiking soles, dog feet, horse hooves, bicycles and autos completely. Take supplies to clean up after your visit – towels, water, and disinfectant. Clean all soil from vehicles at the nearest automated car wash. In fact, be a good neighbor by cleaning your boots, pants cuffs, bikes, etc, before you leave on your vacation to prevent transporting garlic mustard seeds or some other hitchhiker from Illinois to your destination.

Go to www.suddenoakdeath.org/ and www.cropsci.uiuc.edu/ to find out more.

Becky Anderson

Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 17, noon
Sugar Grove Nature Center
Reservations due Sept. 3

General Maintenance Workday

Saturday, August 5, 9:00 AM
Merwin, West Gate
Leader Tim Lindenbaum
309-531-7065

Seed Collection

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 AM
Towanda's FS Service Station
Leader: Mary Horgan
309-527-5636

NOTE: Dates 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@dtmspeed.net or 309-531-7065.

Address Service Requested

Ecology Action Center
P. O. Box 3132
Bloomington,
Illinois 61702-3132
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