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Find us on the web at:  
[www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org)

**Newsletter  
December 2010-  
January 2011**

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## Training, Coalition Building Strengthen ParkLands

On October 12 Dr. Angelo Capparella and I attended the first ever *Conservation Land Trust Training Workshop* sponsored by Prairie State Conservation Coalition. This non-profit organization is a consortium of Illinois land trusts committed to the "preservation of land and water systems in our state".

The meeting was held in Champaign with representatives from over 50 land trusts participating! In addition to social networking, the meeting offered members an opportunity to attend training sessions on critical issues including:

- ◇ Estate planning tools/conservation tax incentives
- ◇ Land Trust Alliance accreditation standards & practices
- ◇ Lobbying basics
- ◇ Partnering with other land trusts
- ◇ Marketing, fundraising

Following that training, Angelo and I participated in a 2-day summit hosted by Grand Victoria Foundation. During that time we discussed various conservation issues including: the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), funding to defend conservation easements, public awareness campaigns, engaging youth and minorities in conservation efforts, online networking, building steward-

ship capacity, wetland mitigation and carbon credits to name a few.

We will be taking the information we gathered at these trainings back to our full board and various committees for review. If you are interested in reading more about the conservation efforts of Grand Victoria Foundation, please go to: [www.grandvictoriafdn.org](http://www.grandvictoriafdn.org).

*Mary Horgan  
Vice-President*

### *The Early Years*

ParkLands Foundation Newsletter  
Vol. 1, # 1 May 1969

...Land, land, who's got the land? Not ParkLands, unfortunately. Our goal of 5,000 acres in five years has not even inched along! Since the gifts made by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hubert near Saybrook and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Parker in Funks Grove last summer, not an acre has come to ParkLands. Yes, many people are "thinking about it" but nothing concrete has come of it. RIGHT NOW is a good time to ask yourself, "Have I been meaning to give some land to ParkLands"...



### **Pickin' And A-Grinnin'**

ParkLands Foundation hosted a workday on Saturday, October 16th. We had a good turn out to

collect native prairie seed from a remnant railroad easement just north of Pontiac. ParkLands would like to thank the dedicated volunteers: Frank Zimmerman, Kristi Shoemaker, Mary Horgan, Linda Giles, Dale Birkenholz, and Sherrie Snyder.

We worked for about three hours and collected a large amount of prairie seed. Species included thimbleweed, sullivan's milkweed, lead plant, purple and white prairie clover, rattlesnake master, prairie coreopsis, mimosa, round headed bush clover, prairie blazing star, wild quinine, obedient plant, mountain mint, yellow coneflower, prairie dock, compass plant, stiff goldenrod, cord grass, and culvers root.

Thanks for your help!

*Jason Shoemaker*

# Meet Your Membership Director — *Sherrie Snyder*



Hello to all Parklands members. You may not know it, but you hear from me once a year when it's time to renew your Parklands memberships. I work behind the scenes

maintaining the Parklands membership name and address database for the newsletter, sending out annual renewal notices, and welcoming new members with packets of information.

I grew up in northern Illinois roaming the woods along the Rock River. When I moved to Normal to go to ISU, I was happy to find Parklands' Merwin Preserve to replace my old stomping grounds. I graduated from ISU with a BS in Biology and Math having had the pleasure of taking classes from both Dale Birkenholz and Roger Anderson. I taught high school algebra and biology for 5 years before earning a second degree from ISU in Applied Computer Science and joining the work force at State Farm as a Systems Analyst.

I retired from State Farm a few years ago and am getting back to my roots – tromping in the woods. My husband and I recently moved to a beautiful home along the Mackinaw River adjacent to Parklands' Chiquapin Preserve. We are in the process of removing invasives from our 20 wooded acres and starting to burn the woods according to a regular burn plan. We volunteer at the Parklands workdays and gain a lot of valuable experience that we put into practice on our own property.

I am currently participating in the first Master Naturalist class to be offered in McLean County. Parklands' Land Steward, Jason Shoemaker, is organizing a group of Master Naturalists to put our volunteer hours to work on the Parklands Woodford County properties. I am also in the process of starting a local chapter of the Wild Ones — an organization dedicated to educating people about the use of native plants in home and public landscaping. Parklands needs active members to help preserve its many land holdings for future generations. I hope to be able to meet you at a future Parklands workday.

## Give a Gift to Remember

Wondering what to get that person on your Christmas list who has everything? Relax! Why not give them an annual gift membership to the Parklands Foundation. Gifts start at \$25.

The gift recipient will receive:

- A memo acknowledging your gift,
- A trail guide to the Merwin Preserve,
- Bi-monthly newsletters,
- A Parklands decal for their car, and best of all...
- Hundreds of acres of the great outdoors to enjoy.

Visit our website ([www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org)) for the Gift Membership Form.

## Calendar of Events

### Invasives control

Moon Tract

Friday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m.

### Forest Restoration

Saturday, Jan. 29, 9 a.m.

Merwin Preserve  
South Gate

### Invasives control

Merwin Preserve Gas Well

Friday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m.

### Invasives control

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m.

Merwin Preserve  
West Gate

**NOTE:** Dates are subject to change. Join Jason's e-mail list or log on to [www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org).

Workdays Leader:  
Jason Shoemaker

309-531-7065

[shoemaj@hotmail.com](mailto:shoemaj@hotmail.com)

Have an article, idea or photo for the newsletter?  
Contact editor Gretchen Monti, 309-829-2450, or  
[gretchenmonti@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenmonti@gmail.com)

Address Service Requested

Ecology Action Center  
P. O. Box 3132  
Bloomington,  
Illinois 61702-3132  
(309) 454-3169



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