

**ParkLands Foundation
Officers**

President: Angelo Capparella
Vice President: Mary Horgan
Secretary: Barry Brenneman
Treasurer: Dan Deneen
Land Steward: Jason Shoemaker



Directors

Roger Anderson
Mac Arnold
Dale Birkenholz
Todd Bugg
Terry Caines
Julie Elzanati
Guy Fraker
Matt Fraker
Deborah Halperin
Jim Mohr
Don Schmidt
Susie Sears
Eric Smith

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

**Newsletter
June -
July 2010**

ParkLands partners with Master Naturalist Program

The University of Illinois Extension McLean County is developing a Master Naturalist program that is scheduled to launch in August 2010. The purpose of the Illinois Master Naturalist Program (IMNP) is “to provide science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards.”

Graduates from this program will have completed 40 hours worth of classroom and field instruction and 30 hours of volunteer service. The mandatory volunteer requirement is where ParkLands can benefit. By forming an alliance with the IMNP we have a great opportunity to significantly increase the number of participants at each of our workdays. Ultimately this will translate into more manpower to help manage our properties through activities like pulling garlic mustard and collecting prairie seeds.

In addition, we are confident this partnership will have the collateral benefits of educating more people about our organization and expanding our membership base. There is no cost to ParkLands for participating in this program.

*Mary Horgan
Vice-President*

Want to be a wild one?

As Parklands’ mission is to preserve, protect, and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed, we can carry that mission to our personal properties as well. To help us learn more about the plants that were once native to Central Illinois and how to incorporate those plants into our personal landscaping efforts, I am considering starting a chapter of the Wild Ones here in Central Illinois.

“Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.” Its mission is to promote “environmentally sound landscaping practices, to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.” Please check out their website at www.for-wild.org.

If this sounds like an organization you would be interested in joining, or even better, helping to get off the ground, please e-mail Sherrie Snyder at slc12852@hotmail.com. Let me know if you are interested in joining a Wild Ones chapter, or if you would be willing to commit some time to the new chapter by serving as an officer, helping recruit members, helping organize monthly programs, etc. Hope to hear from you soon!

Sherrie Snyder



Garlic Mustard Meets Its Match... On Saturday, April 24, five determined volunteers met at the South gate of the Merwin Preserve to tackle our nemesis — garlic mustard. After 2 1/2 hours we had collected eight 33-gallon bags and one 55-gal bag of the aggressive weed.

While returning to the parking area we came across this nest of wild turkey eggs! Truly a delightful way to cap off a morning of hard work! I would like to thank Sherrie Snyder, Amy Aeschliman and Juergen & Meredith Schroeer for their help.



Mary Horgan

Meet your ParkLands board member — *Mary Horgan*



Hello. My name is Mary Horgan-Siegworth, and I have been on the ParkLands Board of Directors for seven years, serving on the Executive Committee for the last six. I currently serve as vice-president and am responsible for the newsletter, annual meeting, our website, donor recognition and co-

facilitating our application for accreditation. I also represent ParkLands at state-wide meetings.

I was introduced to ParkLands by my friend and fellow director, Matt Fraker, who explained with great conviction the mission of this organization. During my formative years with Parklands, I was fortunate to spend time with Dale Birkenholz, who spent countless hours teaching me about native flora and ecosystems of central Illinois. Their passion and commitment for preservation of wildlife and land is an inspiration for me and continues to influence my work within the organization. I am grateful for their guidance and friendships.

I grew up in northern Illinois along the Fox River. It was there I first fell in love with the rivers and woodlands. I recall with great fondness the many hours spent walking along the river collecting wildflowers and watching waterfowl. My love of nature was also nurtured by my maternal grandparents who owned a family farm in New Glarus, Wisconsin. I hiked their woodlands every summer as a little girl collecting leaves, fossil and flowers. My grandmother taught me about the botany and

cultural needs of flowers. I credit both grandparents for instilling in me a sense of awe about nature and deep respect for the land.

My husband Tim and I live in El Paso on an acre of land which he has been kind enough to let me turn into one giant flower garden! Our various gardens showcase native flowers, along with traditional perennials, annuals, roses, vines and native trees, shrubs and ground cover. Recently Tim installed a small water garden for me, which attracts birds, frogs, snakes and dragonflies. It also serves as a very large water bowl for our Alaskan Malamutes, Kodiak and Bear! Tim and I have a great fondness for this breed and have rescued and raised Mals for over 27 years. They bring a great deal of fun and joy to our lives and love nothing more than to "help me" plant new flowers! What should take 15 minutes ends up taking an hour as Bear insists on helping me dig each hole in which he promptly sits, as if to say: "Thanks mom! What a great hole for me to play in"!

When not gardening, I work full-time as a licensed therapist through Professional Associates of Illinois. I also serve on the Advisory Board for the Master Naturalist program currently being developed for McLean County through the University of Illinois Extension. In 2000, I graduated from the U of I Master Gardener program and in 2004 became a Certified Naturalist. I hope the knowledge and field experience I gained during these trainings will enable me to contribute to the development of the new Master Naturalist program.

ParkLands does PayPal

ParkLands has joined hundreds of nonprofit agencies in Illinois who use PayPal. For those of you not familiar with PayPal, it is an intermediary service allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the Internet. It serves as an electronic alternative to traditional paper methods such as checks. By signing up for PayPal we offer our members a safe and convenient way to renew their annual dues and/or to make donations. PayPal will also serve as a new avenue by which to reach new donors and raise money. Please know that if you decide to use PayPal, ParkLands will not have access to your financial information such as credit card numbers.

To access PayPal, go to our website at www.parklandsfoundation.org and click on the 'donate' button in the upper right-hand side of the homepage. Then follow the prompts on subsequent screens.

We will continue to notify members by mail when annual dues are set to expire allowing people to pay by check if preferred.

Mary Horgan

Calendar of Events

Invasive Control
Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m.
Merwin Preserve
South Gate

Trail Maintenance
Saturday, July 17, 9 a.m.
Merwin Preserve
West Gate

Bridge Building
Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m.
Merwin Preserve
West side

Workdays Leader:
Jason Shoemaker
309-531-7065
shoemaj@hotmail.com

NOTE: Dates are subject to change. Join Jason's e-mail list or log on to www.parklandsfoundation.org.

Have an article, idea or photo for the newsletter?
Contact editor Gretchen Monti, 309-829-2450, or gretchen.monti@verizon.net

Address Service Requested

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



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 113