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Find us on the web at:

www.parklandsfoundation.org

Newsletter June-July 2011

Board Adopts New Endowment Financial Policy

The ParkLands Foundation has adopted and implemented a financial policy for its endowments, which are presently the Birkenholz Endowment for the Merwin Nature Preserve and the Rhymer Endowment for Woodford County. The endowments will be invested in a mix of conservative equity investments, such as high-dividend stocks and index funds, as well as income-producing investments. At any time the equities investments will comprise 40% to 60% of the portfolio value. We have converted all money market funds (paying .5% or less) to the investments, although we still have two certificates of deposits that are paying reasonable rates.

We plan to be able to transfer 4% of the portfolio value from the endowments to the stewardship account annually to contribute to necessary maintenance and restoration items on our properties. This would include the interest from the income-producing investments as well as accrued capital gains from the equities investments. The remainder of the capital gains would be reinvested.

It appears that we made the conversion at the right time; the portfolio for one of the endowments

has increased 4% in the first four months of 2011. We certainly do not expect a similar return in the future but are looking at a steady stream of income for the stewardship activities as well as a modest increase in the size of the endowments.

If you have any questions, please call Dan Deneen or Barry Brenneman. ParkLands Foundation will need to expand its stewardship endowments and establish separate endowments for administrative activities and prospective land purchases in the next few years because of the increase in the size of the ParkLands Foundation's holdings and its activities.

Dan Deneen

Ready, Set, Go!



A Great Blue has just exited its nest. Note the breeding plumage.

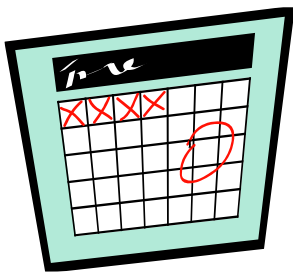


We're pleased to report that there is a Great Blue Heron rookery on ParkLands property — the NiGas tract in the Lexington area.

There are 32 nests among the silver maples and sycamores in the bottomland.

Dale Birkenholz photos

Save the Date — September 11 Annual Meeting



The date for this year's ParkLands Annual Membership meeting has been set for Sunday, September 11th. All members are invited to attend all or part of the day's activities.

The theme for the day is "Celebrate the Beauty of America." Tentative plans include a late morning Annual Membership meeting to be held at the Davis Lodge at Lake Bloomington followed by a picnic with box lunches.

After lunch, and weather permitting, we will travel to the Merwin Preserve where ParkLands naturalists will lead a hike to the restored Merwin

savanna area. We will learn more about this restoration and what we can find growing there. Family-oriented activities are being planned for the younger naturalists in the group.

What better way to celebrate the beauty of our piece of America! Be sure to reserve the date. More information will be shared via Facebook, www.parklandsfoundation.org, and the newsletter as plans are finalized.

Sherrie Snyder

Makeover Meeting

The Outreach Committee of ParkLands Foundation invites all interested members, especially "techies", to a meeting in the back room at Lancaster's Restaurant, 513 N. Main St., Bloomington, on Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m.

We will be noshing on appetizers and talking about ways to improve the ParkLands Foundation website and brochures. Please log in to our website at www.parklandsfoundation.org to generate some ideas and come by with your comments for improvements. Or e-mail them to gretchenmonti@gmail.com.

Dan Deneen



Calendar of Events

Invasives control

Merwin Preserve
North Gate

Friday, June 3, 9 a.m.

Trail Management

Merwin Preserve
West Gate

Friday, July 15, 9 a.m.

Hill Prairie Management

Merwin Preserve West Gate

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.

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
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