

ParkLands Foundation

Officers & Staff

President: Todd Bugg

Vice President: Jim Franks

Secretary: Julie Elzanati

Treasurer: Barry Brenneman

Land Steward: Jason Shoemaker

Admin. Director: Mike Hall

Website

www.parklandsfoundation.org



Directors

Nancy Armstrong	Roger Anderson
Michael Brown	Angelo Capparella
Dan Deneen	Matt Fraker
Given Harper	Matt Hickman
Mary Horgan	Krista Kirkham
Maria Lemke	Les Luginbuhl
Don Schmidt	Eric Smith

Newsletter

December 2012 -
January 2013

Honorary Directors

Dale Birkenholz & Guy Fraker

ParkLands Holiday Wish List

In the past five years, the ParkLands Foundation has significantly expanded its land holdings and restoration activities and now needs to catch up both financially and in management capabilities. These increased holdings include the 600+ acre Chinquapin Preserve received from the Nature Conservancy in Woodford County and the 77.25 acre Sweeney Woods Preserve north of Lake Bloomington.

In addition to the new land acquisitions, the foundation leveraged restoration funds through government grants to restore portions of the Merwin Preserve, Hidden Hills, Lexington Preserve and other sites.

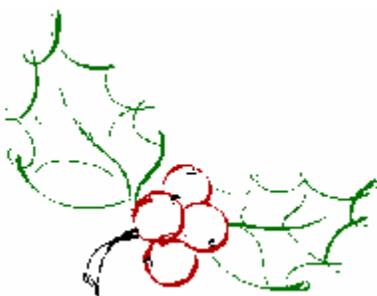
ParkLands Foundation is doing well, but we need to increase our endowments and land funds to restore and maintain what is approximately 3,000 acres in McLean and Woodford Counties and to acquire new properties in the Mackinaw River area, if possible.

Would you please consider a year a year-end gift to ParkLands Foundation? Any gift will be warmly received. However, ParkLands Foundation has two outstanding loan obligations that are depleting its cash resources during a tight time for consideration by any particularly generous donors.

~ The first obligation is the remainder of the contract for the purchase of the Dungey tract, which has been converted into a canoe launch at the Sparks Bridge in Woodford County. The balance for the purchase will be approximately \$17,250.00 at the end of 2012. We would be pleased to provide a prospective donor with a tour of the canoe launch property and the adjacent ParkLands' property.

~ The second obligation is the installment contract for the purchase of a Bobcat with accessories.

The Bobcat was expensive, but saves ParkLands Foundation a great amount of money each year because ParkLands can restore many of its properties instead of hiring expensive help.



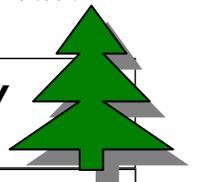
The Bobcat also allows Land Steward Jason Shoemaker to maintain the properties more efficiently and safely. The year-end balance for the Bobcat will be approximately \$22,500.00.

~ Another option for a pledge would be full or partial sponsorship of an intern for restoration and maintenance work in 2013. We have had a very successful intern program for several years, and receive a lot of "bang for the buck" from our interns. If you visit one of our restored sites the tree guards around the recent plantings have probably been installed by the interns. The interns have also removed many acres of invasive species. ParkLands' cost for each intern is about \$4,000 per year, and sponsoring 100%, 50% or 25% of an intern's costs would be very helpful!

Please contact Dan Deneen of the Outreach Committee at dandeneen@ilaw202.com, Treasurer Barry Brenneman at barryb.pl@hotmail.com, or any director if you can help ParkLands out! Appropriate income tax deduction documentation will be provided for your records.

Dan Deneen

Gift Your Friends & Family



Have any of your friends or family talked about "watching their weight" in 2013 for a New Year's Resolution? Instead of giving them cookies, candies, sweets or – oh my gosh—a fruitcake, why not give them a ParkLands Foundation Gift Membership for 2013?

Your friends and family can establish a healthier lifestyle by hiking or bird watching at the Merwin Preserve or one of our other properties in 2013. If they are really serious about burning calories and becoming "buff", Administrative Director Mike Hall would be glad to steer them to Land Steward Jason Shoemaker for volunteer activities.

Only \$50 per year (\$30 for an individual) would help your friends and family and ParkLands Foundation tremendously.

In July the Outreach Committee launched the Gift Membership Program. This program asked the

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Meet the Newest Board Member - *Matt Hickman*

Matt grew up in the hills and hollers of southern Indiana and finds the ParkLands properties to be a lot like home. He is married to Deb and they have two wonderful daughters and a joyous son.

Matt earned a B.A. in Social Psychology from Goshen (IN) College and holds an MDiv from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, IN). He is the Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life at the Mennonite Church of Normal and specializes in Christian Formation of children 0-18 and their families.

Matt is a curriculum writer and essayist and an avid blogger writing at the intersection of faith and life. He is a passionate advocate of ecological stewardship as a spiritual practice. Matt volunteers with land stewardship at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center (Tiskilwa, IL), and also Camp Friedenswald (Cassopolis, MI) where he serves as chair of their Natural Resource Task Force.



Gift Your Friends and Family *cont'd*

foundation's loyal and supportive member donors to financially sponsor new members for one year.

Since July, the foundation has received nearly **\$9,000 in donations and 36 new members.**

The foundation's Board of Directors relays its grateful appreciation to all members who have participated in this program and wishes to remind those members who haven't yet completed their holiday gift shopping that a new membership in Parklands Foundation is a gift that will keep giving back for many years.

For details on the Gift Membership Program, check it out online at

<http://www.parklandsfoundation.org/index.php?menu=giftmembership>.

*Dan Deneen
Mike Hall*

Next Work Day

Invasives Control

Moon Preserve

9:00 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 21

Workdays Leader:

Jason Shoemaker

309-531-7065

shoemaj@hotmail.com

Newsletter Goes Digital

ParkLands Foundation is launching a new E-Newsletter notification program for members beginning with this edition. The foundation is utilizing Google Groups to notify you that a newsletter has been posted to the foundation's website.

You will still have the option to receive the newsletter by mail and the ability to subscribe and unsubscribe at your own discretion.

Only staff has the ability to post. Members of this group are not able to view another's email address. All replies to a post are sent to the ParkLands Foundation administrative office.

Some members have already provided their email addresses and will receive the link to the website. To subscribe, email a request from the address you wish to receive the notification to ParkLandsOffice@gmail.com. You may direct any questions to that same address.

Please check out our website for current and past newsletters (www.parklandsfoundation.org).

Thank You SK Fence

We want to thank SK Fence for donating two sections of chain link fence that we use to prepare and seed new prairie. This year we'll use it to reseed a portion of the Merwin Prairie.

Barry Brenneman

Address Service Requested

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

