
ParkLands Foundation

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Website

www.parklandsfoundation.org



Newsletter February - March 2012

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Deneen	
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Krista Kirkham	Maria Lemke
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Honorary Directors

**No Dogs
Allowed!**

ParkLands Foundation has a "No Dogs" policy which we ask members to adhere to for all dogs, including dogs on leashes. The reasons for this policy are many, including:

1. We don't want to decide which dogs are well-behaved and which aren't.
2. We don't want to decide which owners are responsible and which aren't.
3. Dogs defecate and mark their territory, possibly keeping animal species away from trails.
4. Negative encounters between other visitors and dogs (not everyone is a dog lover).
5. Direct and indirect predation of animals, including barking. Dogs are rarely successful in catching the many birds and squirrels they chase, but they occasionally directly kill wildlife or injure them enough to cause their subsequent death. Even when dogs are unsuccessful in catching the object of their chase, the potential prey has had to expend significant energy in order to save its life.
6. Trampling, digging and scratching by trails. Trampling is the major effect of hikers and their dogs on plants.

Northern Harriers, Snowy Owls, Tundra

Swans, Snow Geese, Rough-legged

Hawks, Bald Eagles and this dandy

Northern Saw-whet Owl....all seen this

winter (often on ParkLands properties)

by dedicated birders who post to the

Central Illinois Bird Group

<http://groups.google.com/group/cilb>

Photo by Matt Fraker

Why We Mean It

7. Disease and insect transmission to native species. Dogs can apparently transmit a number of pathogens to wildlife:

Parvovirus, which affects other canines;

Muscle cysts (*Sarcocystis* spp.) which can affect deer;

Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that affects the kidneys and urinary tract of most species of mammals;

Parasites such as ticks, tapeworms, and fleas are well-known problems in dogs that can be passed to other wildlife.

Many of these pathogens are transmitted through the abundant feces that dogs leave on any trail.

8. Medical and grooming problems for dogs and their families from poison ivy, cockleburs, fox-tails, and other native plants, seeds, and fruits.

For a more comprehensive explanation of some of the problems, please go to Tom Chester's website: <http://tchester.org/srp/lists/dogs.html>

Dan Deneen



Meet Your New Board Member — *Krista Kirkham*



Hello, my name is Krista Kirkham and I am a new board member for Parklands Foundation. I was born and raised in Greenville, about 50 miles northeast of St. Louis (so I am a big Cardinals fan---sorry Cub fans, don't hold it against me)! I graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a BS in Environmental Biology in 2001,

and then headed west to spend a year in Reno, NV for an AmeriCorps program primarily involved in environmental education.

I decided to head back to the Midwest for graduate school, and graduated from Illinois State University with a MS in Biology in 2005. My thesis work focused on nutrient dynamics of agricultural streams in the Mackinaw River watershed. During graduate school, I had the opportunity to perform my thesis research with support from The Nature Conservancy. Fortunately in 2007 this turned into full-time employment.

Seeding the Future

ParkLands volunteers have collected a large amount of native prairie seed to use in 2012. On October 5th and 6th a large group collected seed from our Letchers Bottom prairie restoration area. Restoration has been under way since 2007. Letchers Bottom was close to 100 acres of farm ground, now a thriving prairie with many species present, all farming will be phased out eventually.

We collect seed at the Cayuga Ridge remnant prairie area just north of Pontiac every year. A dedicated group met twice in October to collect rattlesnake master, prairie blazing star, white and purple prairie clover, yellow coneflower, prairie dock, compass plant and stiff goldenrod to name a few. We hosted seed-cleaning workdays 3 times in December at the Bloomington Parks and Recreation building. Cleaning is necessary as a lot of the seed has stems and other material mixed in which may keep the seed from flowing through a prairie drill.

Some prairie seed was planted in January at the Lexington Prairie. We had planted Roundup-ready soybeans in the previous year to prepare the site for planting. The Lexington Prairie was funded by money acquired from the Land Owner Incentive grant through the Illinois DNR. We also plan on planting seed on 15 acres at the Merwin Preserve this spring. We plan to plant another five acres next fall at Merwin, adjacent to the intersection

I have been with The Nature Conservancy for 5 years now, working on various projects focused on improving water quality in streams entering the Mackinaw River, one of our great treasures here in central Illinois.

I have had an interest in nature ever since I was a child. I was lucky enough to have parents who shared their love for the environment, and we went on many family summer trips to the western and southern US visiting national and state parks.

It didn't take me too long to figure out that I wanted to pursue a career in the natural sciences, and I am grateful for all of the wonderful professors and co-workers that have helped me to get where I am today. I took classes from Roger Anderson and Angelo Capparella, and regularly chatted with Don Schmidt (or The Dean of Green), and it is them I have to thank for the invitation to join Parklands Board. It is an honor to be a Parklands board member, and I look forward to helping maintain and support the mission of Parklands Foundation for generations to come.

of PJ Keller HWY and County Road 29. This will continue each year until the whole site is a high quality prairie. The existing acreage that is not planted in prairie for the next three years will be put in cover crops to keep the weeds down until we can finish the project. This also provides us with a smooth site to plant into. We thank the many dedicated volunteers that make many of the projects with ParkLands possible.

Jason Shoemaker

Seeking Administrative Director

ParkLands is seeking applications for a paid, half time Administrative Director.

Letters of interest and resumes can be sent to info@parklandsfoundation.org or mailed to ParkLands Foundation, PO Box 3132, Bloomington, IL 61702-3132

This person will help with maintaining and administering records and be responsible for many of the day to day operations of our organization.

We plan to hire a new Administrative Director by spring.

Address Service Requested

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