



Newsletter

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www.ParkLandsFoundation.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow members:

Thank you for your generous support to the ParkLands Foundation. I hope that you can join us at Matt Fraker and Sherri Thornton's farm in Woodford County for our biggest and best Annual Membership Meeting, to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. There will be a great local food buffet lunch from Epiphany Farms, and a complimentary ParkLands Foundation metal water bottle for those in attendance. There will be tours of our Chinquapin Bluffs property and an optional Champagne Dessert Celebration with cake to close out the event. Further details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Because we have a special presentation planned for our upcoming Annual Meeting, I thought it would be good to provide my President's Summary in this newsletter describing how ParkLands Foundation has transformed itself in the past decade.

ParkLands Foundation continues to expand, and has modified its structure. We now have an Outreach Committee which has the task of not only supervising the previous membership responsibilities and newsletter, but to also try to open our properties to greater use by the general public. We had about 150 people join us for a very successful Merwin in May event with guided tours and family activities. On August 5th, 240 bicyclists "got out to the Mackinaw" to enjoy a beautiful day of 9-, 20- and 50-mile rides past several of our nature preserves. Last year, we hosted a special bus tour with Guy Fraker in partnership with Heartland Community College that sold out. The local YMCA is a sponsor for our 50th Anniversary, and will be taking some children, including minority children, to Merwin later this summer.

We now have an administrative director, part-time. I hope you can meet Erin at our annual meeting; she was a great find for ParkLands and makes the responsibilities of the officers much easier and manageable.

The Stewardship Committee continues to have the main responsibility for ParkLands Foundation. Our land steward is an outstanding young man who is very dedicated to our cause. We now have over 3,000 acres to take care of! We must also monitor our conservation easements. In the past decade we supplemented the existing Dale Birkenholz Stewardship Endowment by \$250,000 and established another endowment of \$500,000 through a generous gift from Lone Rhymer. Through an astute investment program, we have increased the two funds to approximately \$1,250,000, although we are pulling out approximately \$100,000 per year to support our stewardship.

The Finance Committee practices astute financial practices, as noted above. After we finish our 50th Anniversary Celebration, we will embark on a capital campaign to hopefully add \$1 million to each of the endowments, in order to reduce dependence for stewardship activities on USDA assistance, dues, and occasional larger gifts. We are also looking to establish a land fund, to allow us to best access grants, and a general fund to support our administrative tasks and responsibilities.

Continued



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

The Real Estate Committee continues to search for properties. That is very difficult in McLean County, since land adjoining the Mackinaw River, especially in the Lake Bloomington area, is now priced exorbitantly. We are able to access grants that will usually pay 75%-80% of the purchase cost of properties. We recently added about 70 acres in this manner near our Kenyon Preserve in Woodford County, and are looking towards purchasing another tract south of our Lexington preserve also.

Even if you can't make our annual meeting, please "get out to the Mackinaw" often during the rest of the year, and bring your family members, friends and co-workers with you!

Sincerely yours,

Daniel G. Deneen, President

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

To fill one of two vacated seats as Director, the following individual is hereby presented for nomination for a three-year term (2017-20):

Mark Larsen

The following current Directors are hereby presented for nomination to continue for three-year terms (2017-20):

Dan Deneen
Bethany Evans
Maria Lemke

Given Harper
Matt Fraker
Krista Kirkham

Nancy Armstrong

Members may nominate candidates for director by petition filed with the secretary (Julie Elzanati) at least 7 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 15 ParkLands members. No nominations are allowed from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

The following slate of nominations for Officers is hereby presented for one-year terms (2017-18):

President – Dan Deneen
Vice President – Jessica Chambers

Secretary – Eric Smith
Treasurer – Nancy Armstrong

All nominations will be presented for election by the Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting held on Sunday, September 10, 2017.

Calendar of Events

■ **Sunday, October 15th & November 5th**

Seed collection. Meet at BP gas station Lexington
9:00 am

■ **Sunday, December 10th**

Seed cleaning. Meet at ISU greenhouse
9:00 am

PARKLANDS FOUNDATION LAND PURCHASE EXPANDS NATURE PRESERVE SYSTEM

ParkLands Foundation (PLF) of Bloomington, IL, has increased the amount of protected natural area in central Illinois by acquiring 69 acres of Mackinaw River forest in southeastern Woodford County. This purchase occurred due to funding from two granting organizations (Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and Grand Victoria Foundation) along with funds generated from ParkLands Foundation's members and supporters.

The Hayes Woods Nature Preserve, named for the Richard Hayes family who have maintained this property in excellent ecological condition, is close to three other PLF nature preserves, thereby increasing overall connectivity and area of protected natural land. It furthers our Mackinaw Bluffs Corridor Project goals of increasing protected natural areas in both Woodford and McLean counties so as to enhance ecological health, provide habitat for native plants & animals, and protect water quality of the Mackinaw River watershed. The preserve also comes with a well-maintained system of trails that are open to the public for passive nature recreation such as hiking, nature viewing, and nature photography.

"ParkLands' achievement of protecting over 4,771 acres of natural area along the Mackinaw River in central Illinois is impressive," said Dennis O'Brien, Executive Director of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. "The Foundation is pleased to be a partner in the group's latest acquisition, Hayes Woods. Based on the care taken by ParkLands and its volunteers to improve and protect habitat at sites like Letcher Basin and Sweeney Woods, also purchased with the help of Foundation grant support, the new preserve is in good hands."

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (www.illinoiscleanenergy.org) supports programs and projects that will improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy resources, and preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitats throughout the state.

Grand Victoria Foundation (www.grandvictoriafdn.org) is a statewide grant maker that invests its resources to provide early education opportunities for young children, protect natural lands and waterways, and promote economic vitality through robust employment development. Through its Vital Lands Illinois grant program, the Foundation supports the acquisition and preservation of vitally important, irreplaceable natural landscapes across Illinois.

ParkLands Foundation (www.parklandsfoundation.org) is a nonprofit, public membership, conservation land trust that is dedicated to acquiring, preserving, and restoring natural areas in the Mackinaw River watershed of McLean and Woodford counties. Our success since 1967 is due to the long-term support of local volunteers and donors.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!

<https://pkannualmeeting.eventbrite.com/>

ParkLands Foundation 50th Anniversary Annual Membership Meeting Order Form



All programs and hikes will be free of charge and open to the public. Water, porta potties and handwashing stations will be provided. Please be sure to bring your water bottle!

DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

For Members (pick one per person):

	Amount	# People
1. No lunch or dessert (you may bring your own picnic lunch)	FREE	___
2. Buffet Lunch Only	\$25	___
3. Champagne & Dessert Celebration Only	\$10	___
4. Both Buffet Lunch and Champagne & Dessert Celebration	\$35	___

For Non-Members (pick one per person):

	Amount	# People
5. No lunch or dessert (you may bring your own picnic lunch)	FREE	___
6. Buffet Lunch Only	\$35	___
7. Champagne & Dessert Celebration Only	\$15	___
8. Both Buffet Lunch and Champagne & Dessert Celebration	\$50	___

\$50 Option includes 1 year ParkLands Foundation membership

For Children Age 12 and under (pick one per person):

	Amount	# People
9. No lunch or dessert (you may bring your own picnic lunch)	FREE	___
10. Buffet Lunch Only	\$15	___
11. Dessert Celebration Only (includes lemonade)	\$ 5	___
12. Both Buffet Lunch and Dessert Celebration	\$20	___

Become a Member:

	Amount	# People
<i>Limited offer: 50% off our basic membership price (regularly \$30)</i>	\$15 per person	___
<i>Note: one-year basic membership included if you selected Option #8</i>	\$ 0	___

General donation (tax deductible):

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Registration & Tickets also available online: <https://pkannualmeeting.eventbrite.com/>

NAME(S) _____ (please print)

PHONE _____ (please print)

EMAIL _____ (please print)

**PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED ORDER FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT BY SEPTEMBER 4TH TO:
ParkLands Foundation, P.O. Box 12, Normal IL 61761-0012
P.O. Box 12, Normal IL 61761-0012**

Dear ParkLands Foundation Members,

We would like to invite you and your friends to join us at the ParkLands Foundation Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2017. Because we are celebrating ParkLands Foundation's 50th Anniversary, our annual membership meeting will be different from past meetings. This year, we will host a very special outdoor event that will take place on private property next door to our Chiquapin Bluffs Preserve in Woodford County. **Members and non-members are invited to join us for this 50th anniversary celebration event.**



You will be able to enjoy a hearty local food buffet lunch prepared by Epiphany Farms while looking out over gorgeous prairies and woodlands in the Mackinaw River valley. Pre-registration is required for the buffet lunch.

During lunch, we will hold a brief annual membership meeting followed by a presentation by Matt Fraker about his personal experience as a landowner and donor, a summary of 50 years of conservation and restoration achievements, and our hope for the future of the ParkLands Foundation.

After the lunch and presentation, we will provide guided walking tours in our large and beautiful Chiquapin Bluffs preserve. We also will offer limited space in a few vehicles as a tour option.

After the tours, we will have celebratory champagne with cake and a dessert buffet. Pre-registration is required for the champagne and dessert buffet.

To place your order for the Buffet Lunch and/or Champagne & Dessert Celebration, please complete the form below and mail it with your check so it will arrive no later than Monday, September 4th. Or you can contact Erin Herbez at parklandsoffice@gmail.com or 309-454-3169 (ext. 16). Tickets & Registration can also be completed online: <https://pkannualmeeting.eventbrite.com/>

We hope you and your family and friends will join us!

LOCATION:

Matt Fraker and Sherri Thornton Farm, Woodford County, Illinois
Exact location details and directions provided only upon receipt of your pre-registration

AGENDA:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 AM | <i>OPTIONAL</i> Nature hike at Chiquapin Bluffs and Fraker-Thornton Farm |
| 12:00 PM | Epiphany Farms Local Foods Buffet Lunch (<i>ticket required</i>)
Menu: Roasted chicken, BBQ pulled pork, Grilled miso honey tofu and vegetables with rice, garlic mashed potatoes, corn bread, homemade bread, farm fresh vegetables, kale salad, ice tea |
| 12:30 PM | Formal Membership Meeting and Presentation by Matt Fraker – 50 Years of Conservation Success:
The Past and Future of ParkLands Foundation |
| 1:30 PM | Hikes and Hayrack Rides in Chiquapin Bluffs |
| 3:00 PM | Champagne, Anniversary Cake and Dessert Buffet (<i>ticket required</i>) |

PLEASE NOTE: The natural lands conservation and restoration activities of the ParkLands Foundation are made possible by donations, memberships and grants. All event costs for the annual meeting, excluding the cost of your food, have provided by the ParkLands Foundation and Matt Fraker and Sherri Thornton. **Please consider supporting our efforts by making a monetary contribution today.**



ParkLands Foundation / PO Box 12 / Normal, IL 61761-0012
(309) 454-3169 / **Address Service Requested**

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President

Jessica Chambers
Vice President

Julie Elzanati
Secretary

Nancy Armstrong
Treasurer

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Cristina Almeida
Finn Amble
Michael Brown
Bethany Evans Campbell
Angelo Capparella
Matt Fraker
Given Harper
Nathan Hinch
Krista Kirkham
Maria Lemke
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