



# Newsletter

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[www.ParkLandsFoundation.org](http://www.ParkLandsFoundation.org)



## GET OUT TO THE MACKINAW

By Daniel Deneen, President

The overall theme for our 50th year is "Get out to the Mackinaw". We hope to encourage far greater use of the Mackinaw River Valley by persons in McLean and Woodford Counties. We will try emphasizing how great the Mackinaw River Valley is for hiking, birding, photography and other art, canoeing and kayaking, bicycling, nature meditation, and other outdoor uses.

What can you do to help? Accompany as many people to our properties as possible, or bicycle along the Mackinaw River Valley. We do not allow trail bicycling within our preserves or dogs.

A second thing you can do to help us is to recruit new membership. We would like to double our membership this year! It is amazing how many people are unaware of ParkLands Foundation's properties and how they can be accessed by the public. We are having a contest, and the member that recruits the most new members will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Café Italia. If you take a person to a property and hand them an application, a new membership will usually be a "done deal".

Julie Elzanati, Jessica Chambers, Bethany Evans and the Outreach Committee have planned a very busy year for us. Please save the date for May 13 for Merwin in May. Some of our scientists will be manning stations on 2 and 3 mile walks through the Merwin. This will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon.



## GET OUT TO THE MACKINAW (continued)

By Daniel Deneen, President

On August 5, we will have a Mackinaw Valley Half Century Bike Ride. You and your family, friends, and coworkers can bicycle approximately 7, 25, or 50 miles in a non-race setting. The 50-mile route can be stretched out a bit further to access our Kenyon and Letcher basin preserves, slightly off the main route. Vitesse Cycle Shop will be helping to coordinate the day, with board member Michael Brown assisting with his extensive bicycling experience.

On September 10, Board Member Matt Fraker has generously offered to host our annual meeting at his country home adjoining the Chinquapin Preserve. If you have never been to an annual meeting, this is the one to attend! There will be planned excursions to various areas of Matt's property and the Chinquapin Preserve after the formal meeting.

There is plenty of task for non-board members to volunteer for.  
Can you help us out? If so, please contact Julie Elzanati at [julie.elzanati@gmail.com](mailto:julie.elzanati@gmail.com).

You will be hearing more in the coming months, but plan on getting out to the Mackinaw more frequently this year, enticing people to the Mackinaw to recruit them for membership, and attending our 50th Anniversary Celebration events.

## MAJOR GIFT HIGHLIGHTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY KICKOFF

By Daniel Deneen, President

The 50th Anniversary year for ParkLands Foundation has started out great. We have received our first major gift for this year, a planned testamentary gift by Terry and Debra Giannoni of approximately 16 acres of ground by our Bunney tract, with an option to purchase an additional 17 acres, including their homestead, for 80% of fair market value. The Giannoni's are placing the gift ground into a restoration program to save us additional funds.

In addition to this gift, we are in the process of purchasing a 71 acre parcel of property in Woodford County, along Panther Creek. The Illinois Clean Energy Foundation and Victoria Foundation are funding most of the purchase price of this prime tract. ParkLands Foundation also recently acquired a 7 acre inholding from former board member Terry Caines and Debra Caines in our Letcher Basin area, close to Wyatt's Ford.

We hope to acquire further properties or funds during our 50th Anniversary Year through outright land donations, acquisitions with grant assistance, testamentary gifts, life estates, conservation easements, and other gifting methods. Please contact President Dan Deneen or another member of our board to discuss how you can make our 50th Anniversary even better.

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## VISIT THE PARKLANDS FOUNDATION BOOTH AT DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON ASSOCIATION FARMERS' MARKET

## NEW 50TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO

By Julie Elzanati

For 50 years, the ParkLands Foundation has worked to protect and restore historic natural lands in the Mackinaw River Valley watershed. Since our founding in 1967, we have protected and restored (through ownership, intermediary conservation buyer, or conservation easement) more than 3,200 acres of prairie, savanna, floodplain forest, and river habitat in McLean and Woodford Counties.

We've updated our logo design to celebrate reaching our golden anniversary milestone. Many thanks to Bethany Evans and John Campbell for donating their time and talent to create our new 50th anniversary logo.

We look forward to the next 50 years of continuing our work to preserve and sustain the biological diversity of native plants and wildlife, and to offer opportunities for public recreation, environmental educational, and scientific research in the Mackinaw River watershed.



## PARKLANDS FOUNDATION ON WGLT

By Julie Elzanati



On February 8th, board member Matt Fraker discussed ParkLands Foundation on WGLT's Sound Ideas. In case you missed it, visit this website link to listen to the segment.

<http://wglit.org/post/parklands-foundation-celebrates-50-years#stream/0>

# JUNE 3 & JULY 22, 2017



## LAND GIFT FROM TERRY AND DEB GIANNONI

By Matt Fraker

The ParkLands Foundation is pleased to announce a great beginning to its 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Terry and Deb Giannoni have been great neighbors of the ParkLands Foundation for many years. They own approximately 33 acres of land that abuts the ParkLands' 20 acre Cecilia Bunney Preserve in McLean County. Their acreage is a combination of approximately 16 acres of tillable land that has been farmed in corn and soybeans, and 17 acres of beautiful timber that includes their homesite.

The Giannonis have generously committed to a testamentary (upon death) gift to the ParkLands Foundation of the 16 acre tillable tract, which is worth at least \$160,000. As a bonus, the Giannonis have enrolled this ground into a Crop Reserve Pollinator Program, essentially committing to privately restoring this portion of their property prior to the effective date of the gift. Their continuing stewardship should save ParkLands Foundation close to \$10,000 in restoration and maintenance. They will also create 20 foot wide strips along their property's north and east boundary to ease our access to the Bunney Preserve in the interim.

The Giannonis have also committed to selling to ParkLands at some point in the future their 17 acre timbered homesite at 80% of appraised value. ParkLands would then have the option of reselling (or using) a five acre parcel that contains their buildings and home, while adding the remaining 12 acres of timber to the Bunney Preserve.

Their gift is a tremendous addition to the ecological footprint of ParkLands in that area and highlights that the ParkLands Foundation is very receptive to deferred property gifting by donors which allows their land to be preserved in perpetuity. The ParkLands Foundation would like to offer its sincerest gratitude to Terry and Deb Giannoni for their consideration of these gifts to our organization and for getting our 50th Anniversary off to such a grand start!

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## PARKLANDS 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS SPONSORS

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# Invenenergy



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Daniel G. Deneen  
Attorney & Counselor at Law



## SAVE THE DATES PARKLANDS FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### **SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 — MERWIN IN MAY**

Learn about our nature restoration activities through guided tours and family activities at our Merwin Nature Preserve in McLean County.

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 — HALF CENTURY BIKE RIDE**

Participate in a 7-, 20-, or 50-mile bike ride near our nature preserve properties throughout the Mackinaw River Watershed. The rides will start and end in Lexington. The cost is \$25 per person if registered before July 22, and \$30 after. More details and registration information will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Mark your calendars...we hope to see you there!

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 — ANNUAL MEETING AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARTY (MEMBERS ONLY)**

A ParkLands Foundation Members only event. Enjoy a picnic lunch, cake, guided hikes, and a hay rack ride at our Chinquapin Bluffs Nature Preserve in Woodford County. Details and registration information will be mailed to members in July 2017.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for members who are willing to donate some time and energy to help us at these events. Here are event dates when we need volunteers.

We need volunteers to help staff outreach booths at the following community events to raise awareness about the ParkLands Foundation and promote our 50th anniversary events. Volunteers will hand out flyers and brochures, sell our new apparel and gear, and promote the benefits of the ParkLands Foundation.

- **Saturday, March 4** - Master Gardener's Home, Lawn and Garden Show
- **Saturday, April 8** - Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo
- **Saturday, June 3** - Bloomington Farmer's Market
- **Friday/Saturday, June 16/17** - Glorious Gardens Festival
- **Saturday, July 22** - Bloomington Farmer's Market

We also need volunteers to help with a variety of tasks before or during our three major 50th anniversary celebration events.

- **Saturday, May 13** - Merwin in May
- **Saturday, August 5** - Half Century Bike Ride
- **Sunday, September 10** - Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration

If you are interested in helping us out during any of these events, please contact Erin Herbez at [parklandsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:parklandsoffice@gmail.com) or 309-454-3169 ext. 16.



## GET YOUR PARKLANDS FOUNDATION 50th ANNIVERSARY APPAREL

### PRICING

- Car Magnet \$5
- Water Bottle \$10
- Bag \$10
- T-Shirts \$15
- ¾ Sleeves \$20
- Hats \$20
- Sweatshirts \$25



TO PURCHASE AND SEE THE COMPLETE LINE OF APPAREL AND GEAR – VISIT US AT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING BOOTHS OR EVENTS

## Calendar of Events

### ■ INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL @ MERWIN PRESERVE

Contact Jason Shoemaker for information  
(309) 531-7065

#### Dates and Locations:

- March 26 – 9:00AM – South Gate Shed
- June 11 – 9:00AM – West Gate
- July 9 – 9:00PM – West Gate
- August 13 – 9:00PM – West Gate

### ■ MAY 13

#### Merwin in May 50th Tour

##### @Merwin Preserve 9:00-12:00AM

Meet @ 9:00AM at Money Creek Maint. Building,  
Co Rd 600 N, Co Rd 2175 East  
Contact Dan Deneen for information (309) 454-8665

### ■ AUGUST 5

#### Half Century Bike Ride

### ■ SEPTEMBER 10

#### 50th Annual Meeting

##### @Chinquapin Bluffs South

12:30AM – at 2226 County Rd. 375 N Carlock IL  
Contact Dan Deneen for information  
(309) 454-8665

### ■ OCTOBER 15 & NOVEMBER 5

#### Seed Collection @ Cayuga Ridge, Pontiac

Meet @ 9:00am at BP Gas Station  
in Lexington, I55 Exit  
Contact Jason Shoemaker for more  
information (309) 531-7065

### ■ DECEMBER 5

#### Seed Cleaning @ ISU Science Lab Building Greenhouse

Meet @ 9:00am at ISU Science Lab  
Building Greenhouse  
Contact Jason Shoemaker for more  
information (309) 531-7065



# Merwin in May



**Saturday May 13, 2017**  
**9am - Noon**

**Discover** the beauty of the Merwin Preserve that protects the Mackinaw watershed right here in McLean County.

**Meet** the Board Members who will welcome you, ParkLands' Celebrities who will lead you on hikes, and learn from Professional Biologists that will explain the plants, animals and ecology of Merwin.

**Learn** about:

- Spring Ephemerals -bluebells & trillium
- River Creatures - mud puppies & mussels
- Spring songbird migrants
- An Illinois Restored Oak Savanna
- Prairie Restoration
- Invasive Species Control
- ParkLands' History

**Yes**



**No**



To Learn More Go To

**[www.ParkLandsFoundation.org](http://www.ParkLandsFoundation.org)**

- Learn about ParkLands' Board Members
- Download the Merwin Map
- Get directions to the Merwin Preserve
- What to Know and Bring before coming out
- ParkLands' 50th Celebration Events

[parklandsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:parklandsoffice@gmail.com)

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