

The Tallgrass Journal



Goose Lake Prairie Partners
5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450
Volume 12, Issue 1

2014 FUNDRAISER WINNER!

The Goose Lake Prairie Partners' held their drawing for the 2014 fundraiser at 2:30 p.m. at the Prairie Day event.

The winner of the quilt was Dawn Krause of Morris, IL. She is pictured in the photo with her Mother, Lois Brandt who sold the winning ticket.

Dawn and Lois stopped in the visitor's center September 25th to pick up their prizes. Lois is pictured to the left and Dawn, who won the quilt, is on the right. Lois was awarded a Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area T-Shirt for selling the winning ticket

The GL Prairie Partners appreciate all those who participated. Funds will be used to support our many educational activities at GLPSNA.



Lois Brandt, Prairie Partner and Dawn Krause, Winner

2014 Prairie Partner of the Year

Our 2014 Prairie Partner of the year goes to Debbie Mahler.

Debbie has been instrumental in our fundraising efforts, staffing the Visitors Center, and Partner sponsored events.

We appreciate her "can do" attitude and support for all our events and activities.

Thank you Debbie!



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17th Annual Prairie Day, September 20th.
Submitted by Susie Johnson

The day was wonderful. The event all came together nicely due to the park staff joining in, partners showing so much enthusiasm and making everything so easy... setting up our tents the day before has been a wonderful idea. Wish I could remember who came up with that idea!!

Thank you to Exelon for becoming the sponsor for this event. They had showed interest in prior years so we were grateful for their support.

Exelon set up a booth with many handouts. It was nice to have the sponsor on the grounds with us. The presenters were on time, the wagon master and plant interpreter were active, and the crowd was steady. Up until the rain came. We had a wagon ride in process at 1:30 and everyone got literally soaked to the skin before the wagon master could bring them back to the center but no one was angry. Thank you for understanding!

The plaster molded dioramas (children's project) turned out lovely. We went into that project with a lot of stress. It was a last minute idea, with a lot of failed trials but were pleasantly surprised that the plaster set up much faster than expected. We had just enough volunteers to make the day go smoothly.

Lou with his American Indian Museum never seems to tire of the many questions he received about his Indian items.

With the rain the last ride was canceled and the last two acts were not as filled but you can never count on the Prairie to behave itself in September.

Chuck Johnson handled the drawing. The first recipient actually thanked us but did not accept

the quilt as her closet was already full of quilts. So Dawn Krause of Morris is the winner. Lois Brandt of Morris was the salesman and she was awarded a turquoise GLPSNA T-shirt.

Our first performer of the day, Dave DiNaso, had a 25 foot albino python in his collection. After a small delay and an unforeseen event with his snake we started our day.

While Dave tended to his snake, we began a question answer - what family is a beaver from, what family is a turtle from, what family is a spider from, and about that time Dave walked in with the snake ready. So, he picked up on the spider and his show went on from there smoothly thanks to the quick thinking of Susie Johnson. Everyone that wanted to petted every reptile and amphibian that he pulled out of his boxes.

Thank you to partner Jan Alexander, for making our Food Tent a success and totally supported by us. Our guests seemed very happy with the food we offered.

Our next act is the Invincible Bats. After a 45 minute lecture with a slide show our guests could take photos of the bats. When she pulled out Baxter (a four month old skunk, but not the American kind) the kids could touch and interact with him. He even has a Facebook page!

Our returning act, Scales and Tales (Beth Wagner) is out of Chicago, and she brought more local animals, like the pot belly pig, baby chicks, ant eater (Smelllllyyyyy), huge tortoise, and a snowy owl that literally flew across the room. Photo opportunities were the best! Kids even fed the pig and petted a spider.

The last program was the Archaeologist that explained what it was to study archaeology. Unfortunately, most of our crowd had left, so he had a small audience who were interested in the topic

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and could contribute to the discussion, and some of the Prairie Partners were able to attend.

The event was well attended, over 200 visitors, and we can't thank the community and Exelon enough for their support. We are excited to announce that Exelon will be supporting us in 2015.

Highlights from The Midwin Heritage Association Presentation October 4, 2014



The Midwin Thespians from Right to left. Janine Catchpole as Mary Theilgaard Watts, Gayle Crompton as Eliza Farnham, Lorin Schab as Charles Dickens, Floyd Catchpole as a local farmer, Elspeth Stanzil as Eliza Steele, Keith Graham as Wranger Jack Hansen, and Mary Hunte.

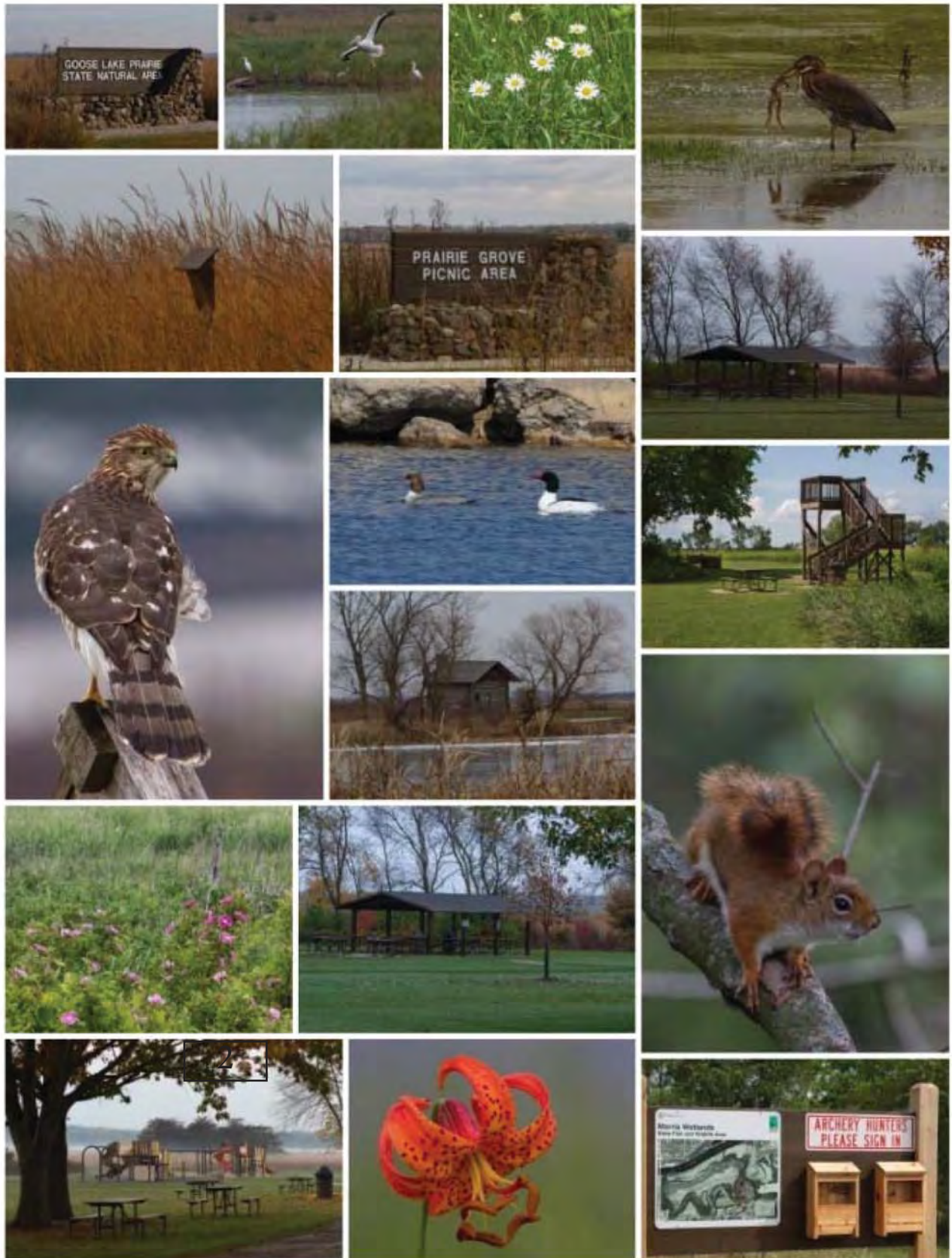


Lorin Schab as Charles Dickens informed the audience that Mr. Dickens did not like the prairie.



Gayle Crompton as the author Eliza Farnham, read many excerpts from her book "Life In The Prairie Land" and told of her travels on the Prairie.

A Pictorial View of Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area





**Saturday June 6,
2015
Bring the Family
and Come Join Us!
30th Annual Cabin
Festival**

**Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
at the Cragg Cabin from 10 to 3**

This is a celebration by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners of a time when life was simpler...a time when many jobs around the home were done by hand. Come visit the Cragg Cabin, our food tent, gift shop and many friends and partners who help to make this trip back into the past, when the prairie was first inhabited by the white man, one of fun, and learning. See our American Indian Interpreter, our Tanner, and others with opportunities to chat with hands-on display and fun. Visit our website for more detailed information - <http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/craggcabinfestival.htm>

9th Annual Nature Photography Contest & Exhibit Coming Soon

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

Requirements can be found on the
Goose Lake Prairie Partner Website.

<http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/naturephotocontest.htm>
Be reminded photos are to be taken in Illinois State Parks.

2015 SCHEDULE

Sunday August 16th - Matted Photos are submitted
to the Photo Committee from Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Following the Judging, the photos will be on exhibit
Saturday August 23 and **Sunday August 24**

Exhibit will be at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
Visitors Center during open hours.



Best of Show was awarded to Gerald Diederich,
[Morris, IL] at the 2014 competition. The photo is
titled "Scarlet Tanager."

Goose Lake Prairie Partners, Inc

Special Events for 2015

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

Event	Date	Time
30th Annual Cabin Festival	June 06	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<p>See authentic pioneer crafts done by the Prairie Partners and Friends as they re-enact in authentic dress. Visit the Cragg Cabin history exhibit and prairie life presentations. Park your car in the visitor center parking area. Walk the trail to the Cabin or ride the wagon. Some demonstrators and vendors will have items for sale. The gift shop will be under the tent. The event is to celebrate cabin living and life in the 1830's. Location is in and around the Cragg Cabin North North-East of the Visitor's Center.</p>		
9th Annual Nature Photography Contest	August 16 (Sunday)	Noon – 3:00 p.m. Accept photo entries.
	August 20 (Thursday)	6:00 p.m. Closed contest Judging in Auditorium.
	August 21 (Friday)	Partners Prepare exhibit.
	August 22—23 (Sat-Sun)	Exhibit Days during Center hours.
	August 23 (Sunday)	Exhibit Closes 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Photo pick up.
<p>The Nature Photo contest offers budding photographers a chance to display the best photographs from their many trips to State Parks in Illinois this past year. While we would hope that everyone visits the GLPSNA for their entries, photographs are to be taken in state parks in Illinois. See our website for details. All activities are in the Visitor's Center.</p>		
18th Annual Prairie Day	September 19	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
<p>The Annual Prairie Day is a celebration of the prairie environment normally held in conjunction with National Prairie Week at the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area. Presentations on the environment and nature play a very important part of the day's activities as well as highlighting on the special features of the park itself. Various presentations, educational talks, and projects for children are the special offerings of the day. All special amenities of the park are open, the Cragg Cabin, the Visitors Center, butterfly barn, nature trails with wagon rides and etc. Prairie Day began as an annual activity in 1997. It traditionally falls on the third Saturday of September. Exelon Generations is sponsoring this event for the second year. Located in and around the Visitor's Center.</p>		
Natural Resource Tour	September 23-25 (3rd or 4th wk - date not confirmed)	9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Project aimed at 5th Grade School Children.)
<p>Directed by the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District; This event is closed to the public. The Prairie Partners are responsible for the Cabin History Presentations to area schoolchildren. Activities happen in and around the Cragg Cabin and the visitor's Center.</p>		
Annual Holiday Open House	November 14	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
<p>We will be decorating the Christmas tree once again with homemade ornaments. If you would like to contribute to our tree, come join us. Children will make holiday ornaments in the visitor's center. Hot apple cider and homemade cookies will be served. Partners will be in 1830 period dress. Located in the Visitors Center.</p>		

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NO RAIN DATES WILL BE ASSIGNED.

Visit our website: <http://gooselakeprairie.org> & Like Us on [FaceBook](#).

Park Happenings

Gifts To The Park Are Tax Deductible.

Goose Lake Prairie Partners are looking for a few new items to add to the Visitors Center as well as to the park itself. If you or your organization is looking for a special project, why not consider the following items:

- 1.) Choose a park trail and monitor it to keep it pristinely clean for our visitors.
- 2.) Volunteer to work the Visitor Center Desk during the weekend to keep the center open when park staff isn't available.
- 3.) Consider purchasing an item for the park. At the current time our "Want list" includes:

- Caterpillars for the Butterfly Barn. (Seasonal)
- New mounted bird or mammal species
- Park benches to strategically place around the park on various trails.
- New folding chairs for our events.
- New folding tables with plastic tops
- Fund a mural for the Auditorium.
- Purchase a chain saw art piece to sit in The Bird Corner

Tax deductible gifts are recognized with a "certificate of gift" which can be used for tax deductions.

Call 815-942-2899 for information.

PARK CONTACTS:

Duane Snow Site Superintendent
Susie Johnson, Prairie Partner President
Bev Mansfield, Vice-President
Char McDade, Secretary
Jackie Martin, Treasurer/Purch. Agent
Norma Hedges, Gift Shop Chairperson
Becky Sipple, Project Chairman
Jo Fleming, Historian.
Tom Kaluzny, Board Member

The Mission of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners

The mission of the Prairie Partners is to help the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in the following ways:

- To understand, maintain and attract the public to the park by producing various festivals, educational events and displays centered around early life on the prairie and on the natural environment of the park.
- To provide assistance and funds as needed by the park and its staff for equipment supplies and other items for improvement and maintenance

Monetary or Time Donations Are Always Welcome.

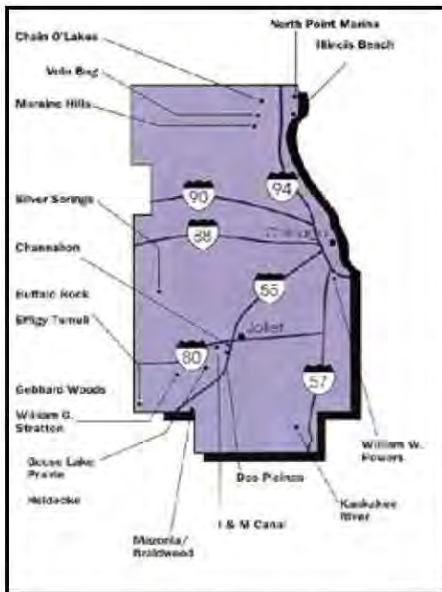
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We are on the Web.
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>

Are you Familiar with
 IDNR Region 2:



Map courtesy of the
 American Park Network

Illinois Department of
 Natural Resources
 Region II Office
 2050 W. Stearns Rd.
 Bartlett, IL 60103
 847/608-3100

Do you use Google Earth?
 Download [DNR Sites Overlay](#)
 for Google Earth.

Take Only Memories.
 Leave Only Footprints.
 Thank You Very Kindly.



- | | |
|---|--|
| Buffalo Rock State Park & Effigy Tumuli | Illinois and Michigan Canal State Trail |
| Chain O' Lakes State Park | Kankakee River State Park |
| Channahon State Park | Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area |
| Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area | Moraine Hills State Park |
| Gebhard Woods State Park | North Point Marina |
| Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area | Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area |
| James "Pate" Philip State Park (Tri-County) | Volo Bog State Natural Area |
| Heidecke Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area | William G. Stratton State Park |
| Illinois Beach State Park | William W. Powers State Recreation Area |

Learn More
 About Nature
 In Illinois
 Visit Our
 State Parks.

FROM THE EDITOR:

We have some great events planned for you this year.

We hope you will again join us for weekend walks, bird watching, wildflower and wildlife viewing and education through our Center, Gift Shop and Events.

Like us on Facebook and keep up with our happenings.
 See you soon! Jackie Martin

We welcome hiking, photographers, naturalists, bird watching and pets on a leash. No motorized vehicles on park trails. Please stay on marked trails.