

The Tallgrass Journal

Goose Lake Prairie Partners, 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450

Volume 8, Issue 3

Encountering The Cragg Cabin: Preservation And A Sense Of The Past by Hal Hassen, IDNR Archaeologist



The first known photo of the Cragg cabin was taken in the spring of 1915 by George Bedford, County Judge. This was prior to the time when the cabin was moved to the Mazon High School and then later moved to Mr. Hough's property to become an antique shop.

When we enter our homes from the outside we usually do not think of the past. We are surrounded by modern technology and conveniences. Cross the threshold of Lincoln's home and we think not of the present but of the past. The Cragg cabin located at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area similarly evokes thoughts of the past.

The Cragg cabin was originally constructed in the 1830's and stood for 100 years before it was moved

and underwent extensive repairs. Over the years the cabin has undergone additional rebuilding phases and was eventually moved to its current location at the state park. Does the cabin resemble the original Cragg cabin in all its details constructed over 170 years ago? It probably does not. However, is an accurate representation of the physical qualities of the cabin most important or is the message conveyed by the cabin more significant. For me, the past is not a place; it is a state of mind.

Absent a time machine, we can never really live in the past. We are, however, interested in the past. The reasons are numerous but for many of us there is interest in comparing what life was like in the past to how we live today. This includes technology and social customs and beliefs. Lincoln's home in Springfield sits on its original lot and is surrounded by several houses that would have been present when the Lincolns lived at their house. However, when visitors stand in the street outside they stand on a well groomed gravel road and easily see many of the large commercial buildings that make up the surrounding neighborhood. So while much of the original

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Park Notes:

The prairie looks beautiful. Our park staff is keeping the visitor areas ready, so why not plan an outing? There are many trails to choose from according to the length of trail you want to walk.

The staff cautions you to bring bug spray, watch for ticks, and be prepared for mosquitoes. The wet spring enabled propagation of the species so come prepared.

Good walking shoes are a necessity, a hat and you should pack some water. Yes, bring the dog for a walk, but remember to pick up after him/her. When you return from the prairie fields, check the pets for ticks, and yourself too .

Stay informed by checking the website.
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>

Calendar of Events

	Program	Video Available
July 9 — 10:30 a.m.	Gems of the Blue (Bluebird) Program.	Birds
July 16— 10:30 a.m.	Wildflower Walk.	Mammals
July 23—10:30 a.m.	Wildflower walk.	Insects
July 30— 10:30 a.m.	Wildflower Walk.	Reptiles
August 6—10:30 a.m.	Butterfly Program.	Butterflies & Moths.
August 13—10:30 a.m.	Wildflower Walk.	Insects.
August 15-21 10-3	GLP Nature Photo Contest and Exhibit.	See page 5 for more information.
September 17 10-3	14th Annual Prairie Day. 10—3, lunch available	See page 6 for more information.

Call the park desk for more information on any of the activities - 815-942-2899

Program notes:

Saturday Programs offered by our naturalist, Art Rohr, begin at 10:30 a.m. and usually run from 35 minutes to one hour. Prairie walks are outside the center with a plant interpreter explaining what you see. For our walks we ask that you wear a comfortable walking shoe, use bug spray, wear a sunhat, sunscreen lotion, etc. Arrive by 10:15 to assure your spot.

Wagon Rides on the prairie are available for groups of 6 to 13 adults. Again, be prepared for the prairie sun, wind etc. Wagon rides must be arranged at least two days in advance by calling the visitor's center at 815-942-2899.

Video programs are available on the dates given and can run at your convenience.

Prairie Day is a celebration of the Nature Preserve, with hands-on animals exhibits and programs. There is usually a project for the kids to make, lunch is available for a minimal fee, among other things.

Check our website for details.

<http://gooselakeprairie.org>

Ask to see our Park Video when you drop in.

Prairie Partners keep the visitor's center open most Saturday & Sundays from March to November.

Prairie Partner meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise listed.

Program meetings are planned as items of interest arise. June 9th, partners enjoyed a lesson in Indian beading techniques presented by member Bev Mansfield.



\$4 each

**Keep the Prairie Partners Gift Shop in mind
when you visit our center...**

*Many Nature Books are available, some Jewelry items,
Handmade Leather Pouches, Clothing & Hats
and Hand-woven Rag Rugs.*

Encountering The Cragg Cabin (Continued from page #1)

context and fabric of the buildings remain intact, there have still been many changes from how the neighborhood and the house looked in the mid-1800s. Historic rehabilitation and reconstruction is tricky. One always tries to maintain as much of the original look as possible. Unfortunately many factors can make it difficult to adhere to 100 percent historical accuracy.

When the Cragg cabin was again rebuilt and moved to its current location, the participants meant to create something that would have provided the visitor with a sense of the past. Despite some problems with its appearances, the Cragg cabin still conveys a strong sense of the past for the visitor. Walking into the Cragg cabin or even seeing it from afar, the visitor is immediately presented with thoughts about the past. Comparisons are made between old and new technology. Comforts we take for granted are even more relished when faced with the harsher conditions which probably existed based on the timber framing illustrated in the Cragg cabin.

As the archaeologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources it is my responsibility to ensure that the Department protects its archaeological sites and significant standing structures so they are preserved for the future. Once protected, a structure can be interpreted for the public. Good interpretation will then enhance visitor appreciation for the resource. A well informed public with appreciation for historic resources will inevitably lead to increase protection and broader public support for historic preservation.

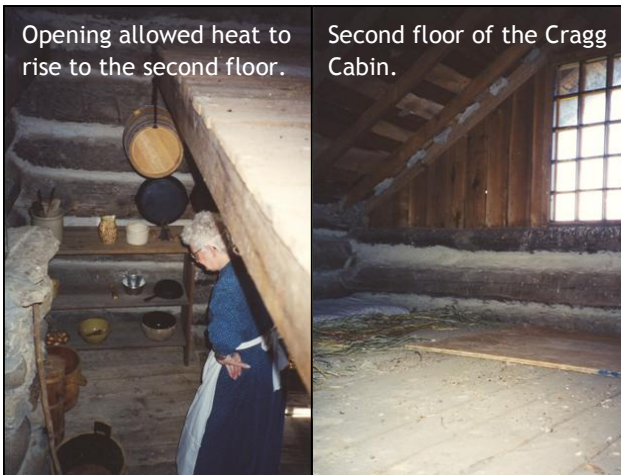
Public involvement in moving and reconstructing the Cragg cabin is particularly rewarding when younger people are involved. The participants take with them an appreciation for historic preservation, while presenting the visitor a window into the past. The region surrounding the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area was settled later than other areas in Illinois. Nonetheless the conditions faced by those first settlers were harsh and difficult. Building materials were gleaned from the natural environment and houses were built using skills and techniques less common today. There is no question that a visitor to the Cragg cabin will come away with some sense that life was different 170 years ago. In the end I think that is what is most important. Reflecting upon the past and what it means can be triggered by old photographs, stories, or the physical presence of old buildings. The Cragg cabin speaks to us about early settlers and lost technologies.



Cragg cabin built from blue prints made by Mr. Hough before the original was moved.



Youth Corp working on front wall of the cabin in 1985.



Opening allowed heat to rise to the second floor.

Second floor of the Cragg Cabin.

Hal Hasson has been the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Archaeologist for 21 years. His job is to overlook all the archaeological sites and significant structures (houses, barns, bridges, and canals) owned by DNR across the entire state. Mr. Hasson has a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He last visited Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in November 2010 to take a look at the Cragg Cabin.

27th Annual Cabin Festival June 4th, 2011 by Tom Kaluzny, 2011 Chairman

It was a hot time on the old prairie June 4th, the weather was more like late July than June. But in true pioneer spirit both visitors and re-enactors went about enjoying a wonderful day on the prairie. This year was full of new activities and demonstrators as well as previous year's favorites. Returning this year with his Traveling Native American Museum was Lou Aiello. Authentic displays of tools for hunting and cooking were there to see as well as games you could try.

Also returning were weavers, lacemakers and spinners along with soap-making being demonstrated. It made you realize just how resourceful the pioneers were in what was required on a daily basis just to survive. There was a fur trader with many different hides and leather goods on display that would have been sold or traded. Younger visitors had the opportunity to identify prairie birds by their call and stamp footprints in a book they made to take home.

If that wasn't enough to make you think of life as it was on the prairie we also had a few new things this year. Jan Alexander demonstrated quilting and brought along a quilt made in 1888 to see. It was amazing to see the work detail and beautiful fabrics of that era. Carol Key was here to demonstrate Native American bag weaving. Hopefully she will be back next year to show us how to weave a seamless bag.



AKaluzny 2011



cast iron pan set in the coals.

Every year there is something new to see or do at Cabin Fest and this year was no exception. Please plan to join us for the 28th Annual Cabin Fest June 2nd, 2012.



AKaluzny 2011



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AKaluzny 2011



JMcDade 2011

Participate in the 5th Annual Nature Photography Contest

August 14

- Accept photo entries Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area Visitor's Center. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

August 19

- Contest judging in Visitor's Center Auditorium (private)

August 20/21

- Public display of entries GLPSNA Visitor's Center 10:00 to 4:00 both days

August 21

- Photo pick up. GLPSNA Visitor's Center 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

For Adults & Youth: This contest is open to all amateur photographers

(those deriving less than 25% of their income from the sale of photographs.)



*Best in Show 2010.
William Porter of Bourbonnais, IL
"Large Milkweed Bug" Nymph"*

PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1.) Color Plant | 2.) Color Animal | 3.) Color Birds | 4.) Color Insects |
| 5.) Color Landscape | 6.) Black & White Plant | 7.) Black & White Animal | 8.) Black & White Birds |
| 9.) Black & White Insects | 10.) Black & White Landscape | 11.) Color Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area | 12.) Black & White Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area |

ELIGIBILITY: All entries must depict native or naturalized flora and fauna. (i.e. -- no domesticated gardens or landscaping plants, exotic plants from public gardens, pets, livestock, exotic zoo animals, etc.)

Digitalized prints will be accepted and judged, but must be the exclusive work of the maker without computer enhancement; i.e., there should be no removal (cloning out) of any part of the image, and no superimposing or adding of elements not in original image. Images that are overly processed will be disqualified.

**The Prairie Partners Photo Committee will review the eligibility of entries. Decisions of the committee regarding eligibility will be final. Complete Rules and Entry Blanks are on the Prairie Partner website www.goselakeprairie.org*

***Presented by Goose Lake Prairie Partners
and Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area***

Entry Form		Nature Photo Contest		
One entry form per photo. Please make copies of form for each photo and attach securely to the back of the photo. Limit three (3) entries per category. Please print clearly.				
Name:				
Address:				
City:		State:	Zip:	
Day Phone:		Evening Phone:		
TITLE:				
Color Plant <input type="checkbox"/>	Color Animal <input type="checkbox"/>	Color Birds <input type="checkbox"/>	Color Insects <input type="checkbox"/>	Color Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>
B/W Plant <input type="checkbox"/>	B/W Animal <input type="checkbox"/>	B/W Birds <input type="checkbox"/>	B/W Insects <input type="checkbox"/>	B/W Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>
Color GL Prairie State Natural Area <input type="checkbox"/>		B/W GL Prairie State Natural Area <input type="checkbox"/>		

Entry forms and complete contest rules can be found on the Prairie Partner Website:

<http://goselakeprairie.org>

2011 IHSA Bass Fishing Tournament—April 21st.

The high schools in Illinois have teams of fishermen that participated in sectional contests through out the state. You can find more information on this contest on the IHSA website. There you will find the rules for the contest, and participating schools. <http://www.ihsa.org>.

One such sectional contest was held at Heidecke State Fish and Wildlife Area south of Morris and adjacent to Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area April 21st. It appears that David Clements, a sophomore at Joliet Central High School, was the top fisherman of the day at Heidecke Lake. (Dave is in the photo on the right holding two fish.) The results of the State final (June 17–18 held at Carlyle Lake in Southern Illinois) has been posted on the IHSA website.



MIDWEST GENERATION SPONSORS THE 14TH ANNUAL PRAIRIE DAY.

Midwest Generation, the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area and the Prairie Partners celebrate the beauty of the Prairie by bringing to you three different animal acts, a story book author, American Indian artifacts, games and dream catchers, a magician, wagon rides on the prairie with a plant interpreter, a lesson in identifying birds, and more... This is a free family day on the prairie where children

and adults learn more about what makes up the prairie and the creatures that live on it.



Mark your calendar for September 17th.

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will have a lunch at a nominal fee so you can spend the day with us.



2011 Raffle item: a Buckskin Pouch 5 X 7 inches and an Amulet Bag all made by hand by a Prairie Partner.

Chances are \$1 each; or 6 for \$5.

Ask to see them at the Center Desk.

Proceeds supports educational programs.

Raffle will be held Sept. 7, 2:30p.m.

You need not be present to win.

Park Happenings



- A **new sign** has been placed on the railing of the ramp recognizing the Community Foundation of Grundy County and the LyondellBassell volunteers for the work they did on the ramp at the visitors center during the Global Care Day on April 9, 2011.
- Watch for **insect display** coming soon. This display will include specimens from our newly donated butterfly and insect collect. (*See page 4 of the April 2011 issue of Tallgrass Journal.*)
- A huge **thank you** to Gayle Crompton of Crest Hill, IL for the donation of four folding chairs to the Visitor Center.
- The **park map** that was on the wall across from the Visitor's desk has been replaced with a newer version which makes the park trails and boundaries more visible. Along with the map of Goose Lake and Heidecke is the new map of the Morris Wetlands. These maps will be helpful additions to the center.
- Three Burr Oak trees from the Grundy County Pheasants Forever group have been planted in the Prairie Grove. The trees were planted by conservation workers (L to R) Bob Klimczak and Randy Passini with direction from Tech II William Green.



If you are looking for an interesting program for your club or group, why not consider a Nature Program? Call the Park Desk for more information.

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 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 help keep the center open. Normally the Center is only open on weekends if volunteers work the center.

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 Bird Corner.

- New bird cam for the center.
- Display Cases

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:

Joe Giacone, Site Superintendent

Char McDade, Office Coordinator

Susie Johnson, Prairie Partner President

Bev Mansfield, Vice-President

Jackie Martin, Secretary and Treasurer

Norma Hedges, Purchasing Agent

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.

Text in this publication is the sole responsibility of the authors of the articles and not the responsibility of the Park or the Prairie Partners.

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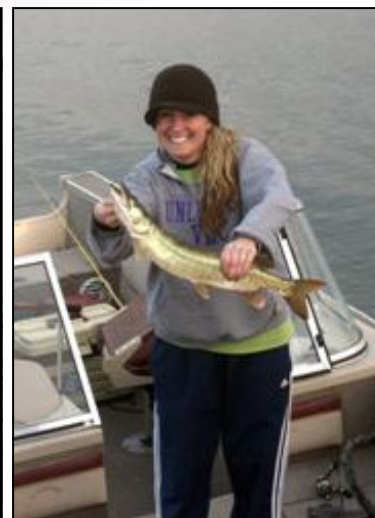


We are on the Web.
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>

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

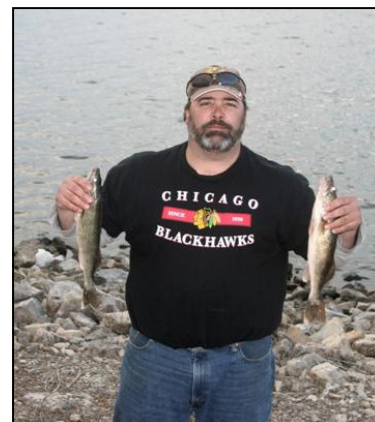


Fishing Heidecke Lake . . .



On April 23, Conservation worker and roving photographer Jeff Watchinski was able to catch these photos of very happy fishermen (and woman) at Heidecke Lake:

- **Dan Lynch** caught one Walleye (20") and one Striper (20") using jigs and minnow on the bottom while boat fishing.
- **Terry Salvino** caught three Walleye using jig and night crawler fishing on the bottom.
- **Jamie Redman** is very proud of the fish she caught using a #5 Shad Rap while trolling. It is a 24" Muskie.
- **Mike Wissler** of Woodridge, IL caught two Walleye (17" and 18") using night crawlers while fishing on the bottom.



Who knows? Next time perhaps our photographer might catch you in his camera with your catch of the day.

Come fishing on Heidecke Lake. The fishing has been very good.