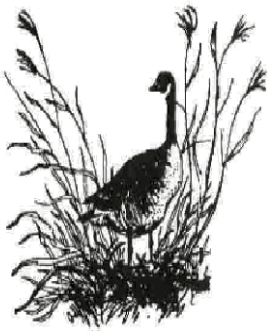


# The Tallgrass Journal

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

Volume 10,  
Issue 4



## New Editor Writes Review of 16th Annual Prairie Day Event



*Jackie Martin became a Prairie Partner in 2005 taking the post of Secretary on the board. Not long after that, she added the job of Treasurer and chairman of the Partner's Fall activity know as Prairie Day.*

*Jackie will edit the Partners Newsletter starting in January.*

*We are looking forward to her journalism. The Tallgrass Journal will continue to be an interesting read.*  
—Susie

The Goose Lake Prairie Partners capped off a very busy National Resource Tour week at the Prairie with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Days. With the sponsorship of Midwest Generation and a publicity donation from Eric K. Peterson, almost three hundred filled the auditorium and lawn, our guests enjoyed the free family fun day at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

Sharon Anderson, the bat lady began

*Below: Sharon Anderson and her Incredible Bats...*

the day with a hands-on, bat's eye view of her Incredible Bats presentation. Little did we know how great this event would be since it was our first time having them. Our crowd favorite, The Traveling World of Reptiles with Dave DiNaso introduced us to the dangers and awes of reptiles. Wagon master, Lon Lovelette and Judi Jacksohn, Interpreter and Prairie Partner, presented four prairie rides while our chef and partner Jan Alexander sold out our food tent with offerings of buffalo and beef burgers, hotdogs and brats.

The IDNR Traveling Conservation Wagon and Lou Aiello with his traveling Indian Museum filled the front lawn with images, games, and dances from our animal and American past. From crafts for the kids to a gift shop for souvenirs, our guests were busy touching and talking about all Goose Lake

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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 dress warmly now that we are moving into Fall and Winter Seasons.

Dress warmly and wear good walking shoes. You should pack a bit of water. Yes, bring the dog for a walk also, but remember to pick up after him/her and when you return from the prairie fields, check the pets for ticks also.

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



## Calendar of Events

November 9—Ole-Time Christmas Tree Trimming— 1 to 3 p.m.

Weekend Desk Service ends November 9th. Look for us in March of 2014.

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

Check our website for details. Ask to see our Park Video when you drop in.

### Prairie Day Event — Continued from page one.

Prairie had to offer. At the close of our day, the name was drawn from our fundraising raffle for "The Patriots Dream" quilt. The lucky winner



was Leta Olewinski of Morris, Illinois.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank our sponsors and volunteers. The Partners and volunteers work tirelessly all day to bring this event to the public. To our many loyal visitors and new friends who came, spent the day, and supported our gift shop and food tent, THANK YOU!



**This event was free because of the generosity of Midwest Generation.**



**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 commemorating the Prairie Park and Hand-woven Rag Rugs.*



\$4.00 each



## — OLE-TIME CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING —



The Prairie Partner Holiday Party was started over 20 years ago when a group of people gathered in the Cragg Cabin to string popcorn. They would have a warming fire in the hearth, a cup of hot apple cider and sing Christmas carols.

Over the years the holiday party has evolved. Now, the Goose Lake Prairie Partners gather in the visitors center for cookies and hot apple cider while the youngsters join in making ornaments for the tree and another to take home. Before we know it the ole-time Christmas tree will be decorated. Ole-time toys children would have received for Christmas will be featured this year.

**Come Join Us!**



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9; 1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.**

## “Collins Lake?” or “Heidecke Lake?” —Just which is it?

ComEd initially owned Collins Station and the associated cooling lake, Collins Lake. To provide more public fishing opportunities, IDNR wanted to lease a portion of the lake and a small land area for boat ramps/parking. Al Heidecke, who worked for ComEd when IDNR first requested a lease, supported IDNR’s proposal. He was instrumental within ComEd to secure the lease.

Collins Lake was opened to the public August 25, 1980 under a long-term management and operation lease with the Department of Conservation. The Area covers 1,995 acres, 1,600 of which are water, and is regarded as a premier fishing area in

Northern Illinois. Other Edison-owned properties also opened areas for fishing and hunting.

When Al died, ComEd renamed the cooling lake from Collins Lake to Heidecke Lake (the power plant’s name, Collins Station, was not changed); IDNR named its access area Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area in memory of Al.

A special dedication program was held on-site (in 1985) for the family members and a new entrance sign was installed. Thus, our site is named for Al Heidecke, not for the body of water.

—Barry Hart and Joe Giacone assisted with this article.

## 7th Annual Nature Photo Contest/Exhibit Continues to Grow...

The amateur Photo Contest is held each August at the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area. It is orchestrated by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners, with a great deal of assistance from the Morris Camera Club and park staff.

Photo entries are to depict the flora, fauna, and natural environment in state parks. One hundred and two prints were submitted on Sunday August 18th at the Goose Lake Prairie Visitors Center. The majority of participants were from Grundy county.

Judging was held Friday evening (August 23) by a panel of experts assembled by the Morris Camera Club. Winners were announced Saturday morning, and all of the photos were on display at the Visitors Center through the weekend. "We are excited by the response to the contest this year", said Goose Lake Partners' President Susie Johnson. "The quality of the entries was outstanding."

The response by the public was also very positive, as the visitor count at the Center was up 75% over a normal August weekend. Our visitors were amazed at the professional quality produced by local amateur photographers. We thank those who made donations of any kind.

If you are on your computer, please [click here](#) for a listing of winners for the 7th Annual Judging Competition.

View the 7th Annual Nature Photography Contest [Album](#) of the winning entries.

**BEST OF SHOW AND BEST OF COLOR:  
DON BELCHA, COAL CITY ILLINOIS.**



**"Barred Owl"**

### **The Nature Photo Contest Judges**

**Margo McIntyre of the Morris Camera Club  
Scott Steinart of the Sandwich Camera Club  
Tom Williams of the Streator Pictorial  
Camera Club.**

**We thank them for giving us their time &  
talents by judging this competition.**



**BEST OF BLACK AND WHITE:  
DENISE ROGERS, SENECA, ILLINOIS**



**“Stay Off the Board Walk”**



**PEOPLES CHOICE:  
GERALD LA VAULT,  
MORRIS, ILLINOIS**

**“Goose Lake Prairie  
Corn Crib”**



# 7th Annual Nature Photo Contest/Exhibit

(continued from page 7)

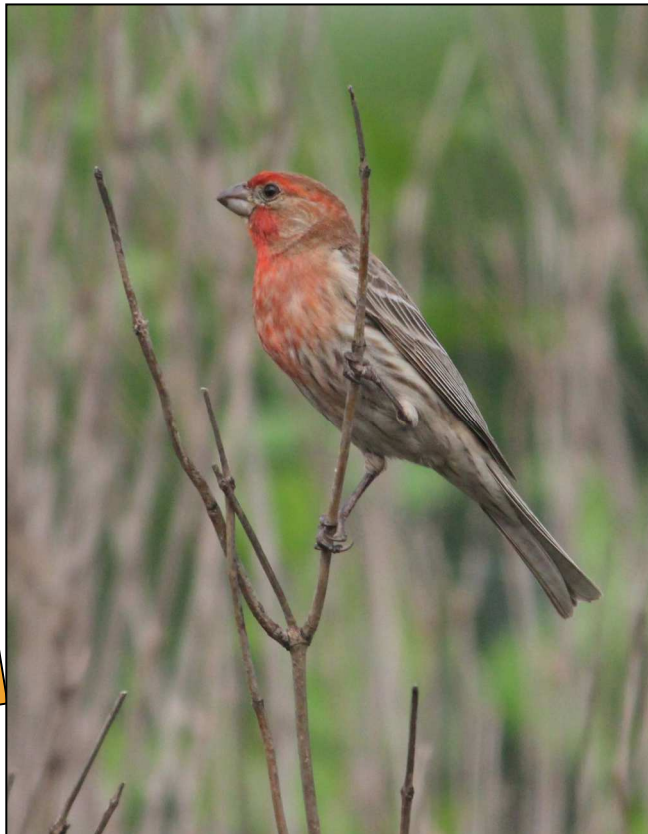
## PRAIRIE PARTNER PICK: Becky Sipple, MORRIS, ILLINOIS



“Welcome Home”

## BEST OF YOUTH: KYLE JONES, MORTON, ILLINOIS

“Peak Perch Pedacies”



**Begin Collecting  
Prints for  
Next Years  
Competition**



## Partners Participate in Natural Resource Tour



Students from the local Elementary Schools in Grade 5 attend the Natural Resource Tour, a product of the Grundy County Soil and Water through the University of Illinois Extension Office September 18—20.



Partners, Becky Sipple (above), Bev Mansfield and Susie Johnson (lower photo) did the presentations on cabin living during the period in which the Cragg Family built their cabin in Mazon. 1,000 students visited the cabin.

## Park Happenings

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- ◆ Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area has two new Tech II employees: Eric Miller and Brian Hamende. Eric is on duty Monday through Friday and Brian is on duty Tuesday through Sunday. We welcome both newcomers to the Park and look forward to working with them.
- ◆ Char McDade, Office Manager, is back at work after a long medical leave over the summer.
- ◆ Fishing season ended at Heidecke Lake for the Season Tuesday, 8 October 2013 at sunset.
- ◆ Waterfowl season for Heidecke Lake began Saturday, 19 October 2013.
- ◆ Archery Deer season started Tuesday, 1 October 2013. A site specific permit-windshield card is needed prior to hunting. The permit is available on the internet. <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov> It is not available at the parks.
- ◆ The Goose Lake Prairie Partners Organization was 30 years old as of June, 2013. An end of the season Partner get-together will celebrate the birthday as well as an end to another successful year.

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## Gifts To The Park Are Tax Deductible.

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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
- Chain-saw art piece to sit in Bird Corner.

*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.*

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  
Rebecca Sipple, Secretary  
Jackie Martin, Treasurer/Purchasing Agent  
Norma Hedges, Gift Shop Chairperson  
Jo Fleming, Historian.  
Tom Kaluzny, Board Member

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## The Mission of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners

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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.

The Tallgrass Journal is published 4 times a year: Jan, April, July and Oct.

## The Tallgrass Journal Goose Lake Prairie Partners

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

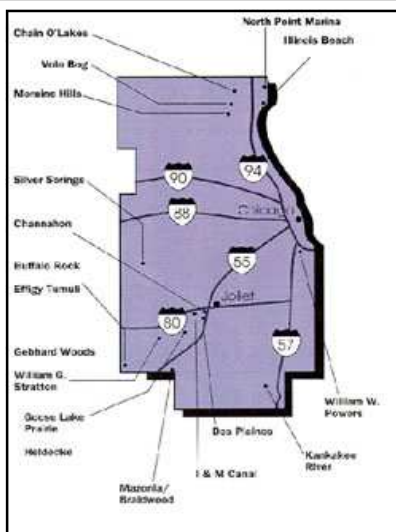
**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

Goose Lake Prairie Partners, Inc

Take Only Memories.  
Leave Only Footprint  
Thank You Very Kind!



## 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.

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

**Learn More  
About Nature  
In Illinois**

**Visit  
State Parks.**

### FROM THE EDITOR:

I have enjoyed being your editor for 10 years. Thank you for keeping up with the Tallgrass Journal and Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

I have fond memories of researching articles and talking with Superintendents Joe Nyhoff, Joe Giaccone and Naturalist Art Rohr for articles of interest to our readers.

Good luck to Jackie Martin as she begins her job as our new Editor in 2014.

*Susie Johnson*

**We welcome winter walking, cross country skiing, and bird watching.  
There should be no motorized vehicles on park trails. Please stay on marked trails.**