

# The Tallgrass Journal

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

Volume 10, Issue 3



## Park Acquires Two New Bird Mounts



*Kirk Johnson of the Illinois State Museum staff finalizes the encasement of the specimens in the visitors center.*

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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 be prepared for the elements.

Good walking shoes, a hat and a bit of water are a must. Yes you may bring the dog for a walk also, but remember to pick up after him/her and when you return from the prairie fields, check your pets as well as yourself for ticks and other varmints..

**Stay Informed  
Check  
the Website  
<http://gooselakeprairie.org>**

It has been on the bucket list for Supt. Giacone and the Prairie Partners to bring back the mounted birds and animals in the center. Thanks to a donation from Eric K. Peterson, we are proud to add a male and a female Prairie Chicken to the Gunnar A. Peterson Visitors Center. The display case was provided by the Illinois State Museum. The Greater Prairie Chicken was

almost extinct in the 1930s due to hunting pressure and habitat loss. Today they are completely extinct in Grundy County.

We are proud to display a White Fronted Snow Goose, donated to the center by Dan and Becky Sipple (both active members of the Goose Lake Prairie Partners) of Morris, Illinois. This impressive goose displays a very wide wing span and a very specific color pattern on its wings. The geese normally migrate to the west of the Mississippi River, but sometimes, flocks pass through Illinois. Hunters call them "Speckled Bellies."

Visit the center to learn more about the birds.



# Calendar of Events

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

March to November—Prairie Partners open the Visitors Center Sat-Sun 10am-4pm.

From April through August—Guided Wagon Rides and Walks. See page 5 for more information.

August 18—Registration for the Photo Contest. See Page 5-6 for more information

September 21—16th Annual Prairie Day. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

November 9—Annual Holiday Open House—1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

See the website: <http://gooselakeprairie.org> for a full activity schedule for 2013.

WE ARE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR NEW PARTNERS. COULD YOU BE ONE?

## Join us on Prairie Day, September 21st, 10–3 for a Nature focused event.

Our Sponsor

### Midwest Generation,

wants everyone to come to enjoy the  
“Traveling World of Reptiles”,  
“Mistini, the Magician”,  
“Scales & Tails Traveling Animal Show”,  
“The American Indian Traveling Exhibit”,  
the IL Conservation Police Wildlife Mobile,  
Children’s games, and  
Wagon Rides in the Prairie Fields.

Prairie Partner Food Shop and Gift Shop will be open  
as well as the butterfly barn and picnic areas.  
Spend some time on the prairie trails.

Traveling World  
of Reptiles...



Scales & Tails  
Animal Show...

Conservation Police  
Wildlife Mobile...



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

*Dearest Mother and Father*

*Finally I am able to take time to write. We are all well, and hope you are enjoying good health and that life goes well with you.*

*Due to such a busy spring, many heavy rains delayed planting crops and garden, but the good side is that our cracked and dry soil has recovered from the terrible drought of last summer. Bossy delivered a nice healthy calf, which is already sold, and mama sow produced a litter of seven. Three are already spoken for. Crops and garden are in, and doing well so we can rest a bit.*

*Winter was mild, not much snow, and it has been an exciting time. We have been able to meet two new neighbors that bought farms from families who have gone west. We were able to have prayer meetings with each family taking turns, and after, we gather for a communal meal. A lovely social time. These Sunday hours have been good for body and soul. We go home to chores, renewed.*

*When possible, we women also conduct school classes, again in our homes. I am teaching the older children grammar and literature. Mary Huff teaches the middle group, and Molly DuPre is teaching the youngest number, letters, and some reading. Our newest neighbor, Magda Von*

*Dusen, is teaching the girls fine embroidery stitches, and they are so pleased to be doing a sampler, instead of necessary sewing! These have been lovely times.*

*Our community is growing and since the one existing school is so far away, we are hoping to put up a building large enough that as we grow, it can be used for school, socials, and prayer services. Two families with farms adjoining at the cross roads will give land, and with all working and contributing, we should succeed.*

*Thank you for the new school books. How clever of you to remember that we are outgrowing the old ones. These will help so much in our new schooling.*

*Oh yes, John did build the spinning wheel this winter. The girls and I had sewn coats to keep our lambs clean, and Anne's husband will shear the next week. Anne will teach me to card and spin! I am so elated.*

*The children are growing so much, and we are hoping to be able to visit you in the future, if only for a bit of time.*

*Meanwhile, we hope this missive finds you well, and that all is well with you.*

*Your loving daughter and family,*

*Lidabel*

Prairie Partner Joe Fleming, of Morris, Illinois, has written a letter much like what a pioneer wife and mother might write to her parents in the east.

## Park Happenings



## ROSEY'S CORNER

Rosey, the resident corn snake, has shed her skin twice since she came back to the center in the Spring. In order to grow Rosey has to shed her skin. She is now about 5 foot long.

Many of our visitors are quite surprised that handling a snake is not really a scary event when she is being handled gently by her owner, and park interpreter Art Rohr.

The photo shows Art displaying Rosey at the children's level so they can gently touch her. On this day, Joey of Morris, Annabelle and Benjamin and their Mom Kimberly of Avon, Connecticut stopped in to see Rosey.

## Prairie Walks on Saturdays

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area  
The State Park South of Morris on Pine Bluff & Jugtown

How many times have you strolled along the prairies in Illinois wondering just what flowers you might be seeing? This is your opportunity to visit with our master gardener and self-trained naturalist who can help you identify the beautiful flowers and grasses on the Prairie.

Spend an hour with our guide strolling a mile of trail while enjoying Wild Flower Walks on Saturday's from now to August 31. The walks will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the visitors center allowing plenty of time for observations and questions.

We have heard it said time and again, that you can visit the park on any given weekend and see wonderful washes of color on the prairie, and come back in two weeks and the colors will be different. Check it out!

Dress for the occasion with hats, and proper shoes. Bring water bottles, walking sticks and bug spray. Dogs are allowed if leashed and they are properly tended to. A two-hour wagon ride program is also available. Limited to 10 to 12 adult persons, it must be booked in advance. Please call two weeks in advance. (815) 942-2899.

A sighting was reported...  
beware!

Stay alert—You never  
know what you will meet.



## Recipes from Native Forbs

The Prairie Partner Gift shop Inventory may soon add a book called the Wild or Incredible Edibles to the sales collection. Here is a sample recipe...

### Goldenrod Tea

1/2 cup goldenrod  
flowers, dried and  
crushed  
4 cups of water

Combine the ingredi-  
ents; bring to a boil  
gently for 15 minutes.  
Strain and serve.

Makes 4 servings.



# Find Your Best Prints, Mat Them And Bring Them To The Center.

The 7th Annual Nature Photo Contest is presented by Goose Lake Prairie Partners and Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area. Dates are August 18–25th, 2013.

The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages (those deriving less than 25% of heir income from photography.)

## PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST CATAGORIES:

### Adult Division

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1.) Color Plant                  | 7.) Black & White Plant                 |
| 2.) Color Animal                 | 8.) Black & White Animal                |
| 3.) Color Birds                  | 9.) Black & White Birds                 |
| 4.)Color Insects                 | 10.)Black & White Insects               |
| 5.) Color Landscapes             | 11.) Black & White Landscapes           |
| 6.) Color Goose Lake Prairie SNA | 12.) B & W Goose Goose Lake Prairie SNA |

### Youth Division

- Y1.) Plants
- Y2.) Animals
- Y3.) Birds & Insects
- Y4.) Landscape
- Y5.) Goose Lake Prairie SNA  
(Color & B/W in all divisions)

**ELIGIBILITY:** Photos in categories 1 through 10 must depict natural objects and features only, and show no visible human activity or involvement. Examples include, but are not limited to, utility poles, mowed grass, pavements, buildings, etc.

Photos in categories 1 through 10 must be taken in Illinois, and 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.)

Category 11 & 12 must be taken in Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, with humans and/or human constructs (such as groomed pathways, shelters, boats, fishing gear, etc) being acceptable but not required. Submit more than just "record shots," in this category. We wish to capture the essence of how visitors enjoy nature while visiting Goose Lake Prairie. Do not pick or move plants or animals in State Parks. Stay on designated park trails.

## ADULT AND YOUTH DIVISIONS:

- Adult division — 16 years of age or older.
- Youth division — 15 years of age or younger.

Prints will be accepted and judged, but must be the exclusive work of the photographer **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.*

## PREPARATION:

- Prints may range in size from 5" X 7" to 11" X 14" but must be securely mounted or matted on an 11" X 14" mount board. One Print per board.
- The mount shall not be more than 3 mat boards thick. Photos mounted on poster board and foam board will be accepted. **NO LIGHTWEIGHT POSTER BOARD.**
- Prints must be marked on the back to indicate "Top"

if there is a question on how the photograph should be judged and displayed. **Entries with writing on the front will not be accepted.**

- All entries must be titled.
- Plastics or other protective covering may be used for transporting photographs, but will be removed when the photo is displayed and may not be restored upon return.
- Be sure to affix the label on the upper right corner on the back of the mat.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Entrants may submit up to three prints per category and up to twelve total entries. Feel free to make as many photocopies of the entry form as needed. There is no entry fee. The entrant must have taken the photographs. **Photos entered in previous years contest should not be resubmitted.** Photos should have been taken within the last two years.

**SELECTION:** A committee of qualified photography judges will select First, Second and Third place in each of the twelve categories, and Best of Show, Best in Color, Best in Black and White and Best of Youth Division. Goose Lake Prairie Partners will select the Partners' Pick. People's Choice will be selected by ballot by visitors to the exhibit.

**DATES:** Bring entries to the Visitor's Center at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL) on Sunday, August 18, 2013 from 12:00 o'clock Noon until 3:00 p.m. The first 100 entries are guaranteed acceptance.

*Entry into the photo contest implies permission to use entered photo(s) in IDNR and affiliated publications, in general circulation publications and in non-profit fund-raising activities without compensation to the photographer.*

Instructions & entry forms are on our website:

<http://gooselakeprairie.org> [Revised 7/19/2013]

*See page 6 for a sample entry form.*



"Patriots Dream"  
PP Fundraiser 2013

## Partners Hold Quilt Fundraiser 2013 To Benefit the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

### "Patriot's Dream" Twin Size Quilt

1 ticket for \$1.00 OR 6 tickets for \$5.00

The drawing will be held September 21, 2013  
at the Prairie Day Event.

Participation by Re-enactors, Partners and Staff at Cabin Festival, In Spite Of The Inclement Weather, Was Appreciated.

The re-enactors were Artemus and Diantha Mate accompanied by Toby (the newest addition to the group this year), Ed Fleming and Herb Hain as well as Judi Jacksohn, Kathleen Tovey and her Jacob Sheep, Lou Aiello, Jenny Rohr and Brandon Slaton. Brenda Soreng, Joe Fleming, Bev Mansfield and Susie Johnson along with all the Prairie Partners. All these people showed a picture of culture and lifestyles of the early 1800s on the Prairie in Illinois on June 15th during the annual cabin Festival. Due to previous rain showers, trails were flooded and the ground was too soft for wagon rides to and from the cabin. Many thanks to all those who helped the Partners and staff prepare for the day. Partners who staffed the food shop, the gift shop, the plant shop, host desk and fundraiser participants were all very much a part of this day. We thank everyone. We were thankful that we had a studious crowd that didn't mind dodging rain drops while they visited with the re-enactors.

Hopefully next year we will be back on the prairie.

### 7th Annual Nature Photo Contest/Exhibit—continued from page 5.

Each photo must be on mat board and an entry form must be affixed to the back of each mat.

Here is a sample entry form. Visit the website for more copies—<http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/naturephotocontest.htm>

#### Entry Form

#### Nature Photo Contest

One entry form per photo. 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:					
Photo Site:					
Color Plant	Color Animal	Color Birds	Color Insects	Color Landscape	Color GLPSNA
B/W Plant	B/W Animal	B/W Birds	B/W Insects	B/W Landscape	B/W GLPSNA
Youth Division under 16 yrs of age:		Plants	Animals	Birds-Insects	Landscape

Revised 7/26/2013

## Park News

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- The Prairie Partners purchased new netting for the Butterfly Barn. The Partners and staff installed it July 27th.
- The first order of American Painted Ladies butterflies will soon be ready to be released. If you are interested in sponsoring a batch or part of a shipment of Butterflies (Approximately 40) for the center, the fee is \$54.00. Call Art at the Center— (815) 942-2899.
- Heidecke Lake boat ramp rehab has been completed. Shortly, the docks will also be in place. The new work on the boat ramp will make the job of putting your boat into the water and taking it out so much easier.
- Look for the Prairie Partners at the August 18 “Junk In The Trunk” event in Morris.

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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 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 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

*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.*

- Fund a mural for the Auditorium.
- Donate a chain saw art piece to sit in Bird Corner.
- Video surveillance for the museum.

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

### **PARK STAFF**

**Joe Giacone, Site Superintendent**  
Char McDade, Office Coordinator  
Susie Johnson, GLPP 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.**

**Partner Meetings are the second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the visitor’s center.**

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 State

5010 N. Jughtown Road  
Morris, IL 60450

Volume 10, Issue 3

Phone: 815-942-2899

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



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



Prairie Partners met June 1st and put the new canvas on the wagon that sits on the trail to the Cragg cabin. Many visitors will enjoy the shade provided by the canvas. We thank **Midwest Generation** and the **Brenda Kaluzny fund** for allowing us to provide this new canvas.

The Cragg Cabin now has a nice entry way—a sidewalk made of flat stones was added by Park Staff. The ground around the entrance has been seeded. The new walk and grass seed will certainly add a nice front porch to the cabin for next years Cabin Festival

## Check Out What's New At the Prairie Park



This is your gentle reminder that motorized vehicles are not allowed on the park trails.