

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED FIRST MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lakeview Conference Room A and B
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois

January 27, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes of the 200th Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2008

Item 4: 2009 Meeting Schedule

May 5, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Starved Rock State Park Visitors Center, Utica
September 22, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center, Zion

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Glen Kruse
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Anne Mankowski
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Fayette Co. – Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Keith and Patricia Horn propose to register 40.60 acres as Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve. The property is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the

Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The proposed land and water reserve supports a population of the state-threatened savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*) with 30 plants occurring in seven locations. The proposed land and water reserve also has 12.5 acres of former cropland that has been converted to a prairie reconstruction, 15.4 acres of former pasture, 11.14 acres of forest (woodland), and 1.6 acres of seeps. Mr. and Mrs. Horn wish to register the site for ten years. Renewal of the registration will be automatic unless the landowners, by unanimous consent, send a written notice of termination to the INPC at least six months prior to the end of any ten-year period. Allowable uses within the proposed land and water reserve will include hiking, hunting of deer, wild turkey and upland game, nature observation and study, photography, scientific research with prior consent by the landowner, mowing of established trails from June 1 through September 30, and removal of dead and downed trees for personal use only. The site supports the priority actions for the Forest campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) by maintaining and enhancing the composition of Illinois' forested habitats, restoring and managing open forest habitat types, and creating broader transition areas from grassland, shrub/successional, savanna/open woodland, to closed forest, thus providing more and better habitat for most wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Bob Edgin

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 9:* Cook Co. – McMahon Woods and Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the 670-acre McMahon Woods and Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve - 510 acres as nature preserve and 160 acres as nature preserve buffer. The proposed nature preserve lies within the Palos and Sag Valley holdings of the FPDCC (totaling over 14,000 acres) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County. The site is located in the Crooked Creek watershed adjacent to the 372-acre Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve. The glacial history of the site has left a mosaic of landscapes that today support a number of grade C natural plant communities (dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, dry-mesic woodland, wet-mesic woodland, wet mesic prairie, basin marsh, graminoid fen, sedge meadow, and natural spring/seep) and several cultural communities. To date, 197 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve. Among the plant species are the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), state-threatened plant, and savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*). In addition, the proposed McMahon Woods and Fen Nature Preserve supports a population of the federally endangered and state-endangered Hines emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). This dragonfly is known from only four states: Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. In Illinois, this species has been recorded from nine sites located in a narrow corridor that extends along the Lower

DesPlaines River corridor in Cook and Will counties. Extensive butterfly surveys conducted from 1996 through 2008 documented the presence of 52 species from the site, including seven species that are considered habitat-restricted. In 1992, extensive insect surveys documented the presence of six insect species (including the Hines emerald dragonfly) that are considered “wildlife species in greatest need of conservation” in the IWAP. Dedication of McMahon Woods and Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports several action steps identified in the plan for the wetland and prairie campaign and the forest campaign. In addition, dedication of this site reaffirms the commitment of the FPDCC to “...preserve, protect, restock, and restore...” holdings that are of ecological significance.

REPORT	ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Steven Byers	Preliminary Approval for Dedication
Nature Preserves Commission	

Item 10:* Hancock Co. – Buffer Addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve, Dedication

Gretchen Graft Batz and Roger Batz seek preliminary approval for the dedication of a 140-acre buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve. The Batzs own 195.81 acres at this site, all of which was registered as Jamar Haven Land and Water Reserve in November, 1999 (Resolution #1504). In May, 2003 (Resolution #1750), 54.4 acres of the reserve was dedicated as Stony Hills Nature Preserve. The current proposed buffer addition would increase the total size of the Nature Preserve to 194.4 acres, making it the second largest Illinois nature preserve owned by private individuals. A small area (approximately 1.4 acres) around a historic barn, included in the reserve, will remain undedicated. The site lies within the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. Significant features include: unique geological exposure and site suitable habitat for two state-threatened species, a reptile and Henslow’s sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). The site also supports at least six prairie and savanna specialists, five birds and one mammal, identified by the IWAP as species of greatest need of conservation. Management of the site focuses on goals established for the IWAP Farmland and Prairie Campaign.

REPORT	ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Angella Moorehouse	Preliminary Approval for Dedication
Nature Preserves Commission	

Item 11:* Iroquois Co. – Buffer Addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Grand Prairie Friends proposes to dedicate a 9-acre crop field as a buffer addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve. The field surrounds Loda Cemetery Prairie on three sides and will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The proposed buffer addition is located near the town of Loda, approximately 30 miles northeast of Champaign, within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve is one of the finest black soil prairie

remnants in central Illinois. This 3.4-acre prairie is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) as a grade A mesic prairie known as Pine Ridge Cemetery Prairie INAI site (#1037). The 3.4 acres of grade A mesic prairie at Loda Prairie are 24% of the total grade A mesic prairie known within the Grand Prairie Natural Division. In addition, the prairie harbors a state-endangered orchid. Restoration of the 9-acre field to prairie will more than triple the size of the prairie at Loda Cemetery Prairie from 3.4 acres to 12.4 acres. Small size and isolation are among the greatest stresses to Illinois' native prairies. For many prairies, invasive species are a chronic problem made worse when prairies have a large amount of edge compared to interior habitat. Enlarging the prairie will help alleviate stresses attributable to small size and make the prairie more attractive to wildlife including songbirds.

REPORT
Mary Kay Solecki
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* Hardin Co. – Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is seeking final approval of the proposed 105.65-acre Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve. The site is a high-quality grade A and B limestone community. The site protects the east part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this community type which is rare. The Collier Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Collier Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. This site also includes Frailey's Landing Natural Area (INAI #437), a geological area. Preservation of Collier Limestone Glade will address several action steps in the Forest Campaign by conserving an INAI site, assisting private forest management, and assisting with the exotic species campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 200th Meeting in October, 2008 (Resolution 2010).

REPORT
Judy Faulkner Dempsey
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Kane Co. – Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

Del Webb Communities of Illinois is seeking final approval for dedication of Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is 24.62 acres in size (14.25 acres as nature preserve and 10.37 acres as

nature preserve buffer), and includes a portion of the Hemmer-Kloempken wetland INAI site (#1519). This wetland basin was included on the INAI for high-quality sedge meadow and graminoid fen wetlands. The proposed nature preserve also includes elements of dry-mesic and mesic savanna and wet-mesic prairie that are being restored. The Hemmer-Kloempken wetland complex, which includes the proposed nature preserve, serves as one of the headwaters of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River which was identified as a high-quality aquatic resource (INAI # 407). The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Kane County. A state-threatened plant and reptile have been reported from the site. Dedication of this site is consistent with recommendations from the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland communities. In addition, three habitat-restricted insect species, the silver-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*), black dash (*Euphys dion*), and broadwing skipper (*Poanes viator*), have been recorded from the Hemmer-Kloempken wetland complex and are identified as species in greatest need of conservation. Finally, dedication of a portion of the high-quality Hemmer-Kloempken wetland basin as Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove Nature Preserve is consistent with one of the “special conditions” set forth in a permit (ACOE Permit No. 200100684) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Del Webb Communities of Illinois for construction of the Lakehead Residential Development. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 199th Meeting in August, 2008 (Resolution 2004).

REPORT

Steven Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Kankakee Co. – Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking final approval for dedicating 68 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#638) as Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is comprised of two units and is located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The site is also within a conservation opportunity area identified in the IWAP. The natural communities within the site include high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand prairie, and old field. It supports 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John’s wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), an orchid, Carey’s smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve also supports numerous wildlife species including four species considered to be in greatest need of conservation. This site is well suited

for a nature preserve dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory because of its outstanding natural character and the partnership it exemplifies in the Kankakee Sands (and entire State of Illinois) between TNC and the IDNR, both agencies in which Mr. Becker devoted his career in conservation. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 200th Meeting in October, 2008 (Resolution 2013).

REPORT

Kim Roman

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 16: Other Business

Item 17: Adjournment