

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED THIRD MEETING

Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center  
Illinois Room  
1 Lake Front Drive  
Zion, IL

September 22, 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 202<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes, May 5, 2009

Item 4: Proposed 2010 Meeting Schedule

January 26, 2010 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield  
May 4, 2010 – Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center, Cypress  
September 21, 2010 – Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford

Item 5: Election of Advisors and Consultants

REPORT

Bruce Ross-Shannon, Ronald Flegal  
Nominating Committee  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Election of Advisors and Consultants

Current Advisors:

Marc Miller IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Bonnie Styles IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Mike Demissie IL State Water Survey	Janet S. Grimes IL Historic Preservation Agency	Dr. E. Donald McKay, III IL State Geological Survey
Dr. John C. Marlin IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. William W. Shiltz Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability	Dr. Gary Miller Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Marilyn Campbell	Tom Clay
Kenneth Fiske	Jerry Paulson	Joseph Roth
Valerie Spale	Leslee Spraggins	John White

Item 6: INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 7: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Don McFall

IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 8: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board Manager

Item 9:\* Lake Co. – Kildeer Creek and Woodland Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks to register Kildeer Creek and Woodland as an Illinois land and water reserve. The proposed land and water reserve is 64 acres in size and is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The site is located adjacent to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory [INAI] #0228). The proposed land and water reserve includes 16 acres of grade C dry-mesic upland forest that extends into Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. Those surviving forests are part of a woodland that once extended along Indian Creek and Kildeer Creek from the Village of Long Grove for a distance of nearly five miles to Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Cook County. Other communities included in the proposed land and water reserve include a grade C mesic floodplain forest, a grade D sedge meadow, and an old field community. The LCFPD has embarked upon an aggressive restoration plan for the site. In return for receipt of funds earmarked for restoration by Openlands Project, the LCFPD has agreed to "...promptly and diligently make an application to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission for approval, by the Commission and the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, of the Reserve Areas as a permanent registered Illinois Land and Water Reserve." While the proposed 64-acre land and water reserve does not meet the criteria commonly associated with registration of a site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, the proposed land and water reserve does buffer Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. Registration of this site is consistent with the recommendations of the *'Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region'* and elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) Forest Campaign which calls for ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Extensive wildlife surveys have been conducted in nearby Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, and it is very likely that nine bird species

and two game bird species recorded from that site and identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation also occur within the proposed land and water reserve.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Jim Anderson  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 10:.\* McHenry Co. – Halo Hill Tree Farm and Artists Retreat Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Richard, Betty, John, and Chehalis Hegner seek to register the Halo Hill Tree Farm and Artists Retreat as an Illinois land and water reserve. The proposed land and water reserve is 440 acres in size and is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The site is located in the upper reach of the North Branch of the Kishwaukee River in the North Branch Kishwaukee River subwatershed; just upstream from the Kishwaukee River INAI site (#0720). This INAI site was recognized for its high-quality aquatic habitat. The proposed land and water reserve is located adjacent to Brookdale, a 1397-acre tract owned by the McHenry County Conservation District. The proposed land and water reserve includes 18 tree stands (a cultural community referred to as a plantation), grade C sedge meadow, basin marsh, and wet prairie, and surviving elements of dry-mesic upland forest and dry-mesic savanna. One namesake for the proposed land and water reserve refers to the 18 tree stands, totaling 371.5 acres, in the Stewardship Forest Management Plan approved by the IDNR. The proposed land and water reserve meets one criteria for designation as an Illinois land and water reserve because it contains wetlands at least 50 acres in size or an area that includes several wetlands totaling 50 acres in size. It is also very likely the site provides suitable habitat for one state-listed reptile species which is another criteria. The three wetlands identified on the McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory were also included on the McHenry County Advanced Identification (ADID) for their high functional value. The other namesake for the proposed land and water reserve includes reference to an artists retreat. The Hegner family remains committed to using art, in concert with this protected landscape, to promote conservation. This proposal provides that the Hegner family may select and maintain, with the approval of the Commission, ten sites for use by artists. Tents may be erected, or small, self-contained trailers may be used for up to 14 days. Each site may be used three times during the year. Temporary toilets and potable water containers would be permitted. Registration of this site is consistent with elements of the IWAP Forest Campaign which calls for ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 11:\* Woodford Co. – Chinquapin Bluffs Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The 756.98-acre Chinquapin Bluffs site, in three non-adjacent tracts (Chinquapin West, 548.35 acres; Chinquapin East, 169.74 acres; Chinquapin South, 38.89 acres), is owned by the ParkLands Foundation. Chinquapin Bluffs has river frontage along approximately 1.7 miles of the Mackinaw River Natural Area (INAI #0788), which is the feature by which Chinquapin Bluffs is being proposed as a land and water reserve. Of the total 1.7 miles of river frontage, 0.9 miles at Chinquapin West and 0.5 miles at Chinquapin East are located on both sides of the Mackinaw River; the remaining 0.3 miles at Chinquapin West are on the north side only. Chinquapin South does not have river frontage. The Mackinaw River Natural Area is listed on the INAI as a Category II site for the state-threatened slippershell mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*) and the state-threatened spike mussel (*Elliptio dilatata*). It also has as a Category VI designation for an unusual concentration of mussel species. In 2001, the spike mussel was observed within the boundaries of Chinquapin Bluffs. The slippershell has not been similarly found. The Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) was recorded at Chinquapin Bluffs in 2008; this species is currently listed as state threatened, but it is in the process of being de-listed. Natural communities at Chinquapin Bluffs include grade C and grade D upland forests, grade C floodplain forest, grade C hill prairie, marsh, seep, pastureland dominated by cool-season grasses, and old fields succeeding to shrublands and forest. These communities are characteristic of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. All communities are suffering from non-native plant invasions, especially early successional upland areas at Chinquapin West, where black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) are particularly problematical. Eighteen species in greatest need of conservation, as defined by the IWAP, have been found at Chinquapin Bluffs (3 mussels, 15 birds). Registration of this site will help implement the IWAP through the following priority action campaigns: Streams, Forests, Prairies, Wetlands, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship. Management of Chinquapin Bluffs has been designed to protect and restore native plant communities, which will reduce surface runoff and sediment input to the Mackinaw River. The ParkLands Foundation wishes to have Chinquapin Bluffs permanently registered as a land and water reserve.

REPORT  
Tom Lerczak  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 12:\* Lake Co. – Grainger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The LCFPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of Grainger Woods as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed 169.4-acre nature preserve lies embedded within the 304.8 Grainger Woods Conservation Preserve; both are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed Grainger Woods Nature Preserve encompasses slightly more than half of the Grainger

Flatwoods INAI site (#0667) and supports grade C dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, northern flatwoods and an old-field community. The wet-mesic upland forest and the northern flatwoods are considered critically imperiled globally and imperiled globally, respectively. Plant inventories have recorded 260 native plant species, including ten state-listed plant species. All of the state-listed plant species have habitat affinities for the “wet” conditions associated with the wet-mesic upland forest and northern flatwoods. Dedication of this site is consistent with recommendations from the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*,” and elements of the IWAP Forests Campaign which calls for ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Nine bird species, one amphibian, and three insects recorded from Grainger Woods Conservation Preserve have been identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. The LCFPD plans to route and construct a bike trail along the southern border of the proposed nature preserve adjacent to Everett Road.

REPORT

Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Jim Anderson  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:\* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Lyons Prairie and Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The LCFPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 125-acre buffer addition to Lyons Prairie and Woods Nature Preserve, increasing the size of the Nature Preserve from 147 to 272 acres. The site is located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Lake County. Lyons Prairie and Woods Nature Preserve and approximately the western half of the proposed addition lie within the Lyons Woods INAI (#1250). This site was originally identified by the INAI as “notable,” and then added as a Category II site for the presence of four state-listed plant species. One of these plant species has also been recognized as federally threatened. The proposed addition includes three grade C natural plant communities; dry-mesic upland forest, graminoid fen, and wet prairie; an old field community; and a tree plantation. The dry-mesic upland forest that extends from the existing nature preserve into the proposed nature preserve buffer addition was referred to during the original natural areas inventory as either “old second growth” or “mature second growth”. Lyons Prairie and Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed nature preserve buffer addition are located in the Illinois Beach – Chiwaukee Prairie Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) identified in the IWAP. Located atop the Zion City Moraine, this site represents the only protected part of the COA that is not part of the Zion Beach-ridge plain upon which Illinois Beach State Park and Spring Bluff Nature Preserve are located. Protection of this site is a priority for the Lake Michigan Action Plan recently adopted as an amendment to the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Jim Anderson  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:\* Lake Co. - Addition and Buffer Addition to Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR seeks final dedication of four parcels of land comprising 50.32 acres as addition and buffer to Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve. Pistakee Bog is one of four wetland basins located within the Volo Bog State Natural Area. These wetland basins are Volo Bog, Pistakee Bog, Brandenburg Bog, and Lac Louette. The protection of these unique wetlands has long been a goal of the IDNR, the INPC, and The Nature Conservancy. Volo Bog was dedicated in 1970 as the 25<sup>th</sup> Illinois nature preserve. Pistakee Bog was dedicated as a nature preserve in 1975 and now includes the wetland basin known as Brandenburg Bog. The Nature Preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve has nine natural communities providing habitat for 11 state-listed plant species. Protection and restoration of the proposed additions supports four action steps identified in the IWAP for the Prairie Campaign, Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, and Invasive Species Campaign. The Nature Preserve is currently 398.55 acres in size, and the IDNR owns and manages 373.13 of these acres. The remaining acreage is in two private ownerships as the Lindblom addition and Brandenburg Lake Island buffer addition to Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve (2.34 and 23.08 acres, respectively). With approval of this proposal, the total area of legally protected land at Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve will increase to 448.87 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 202<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in May, 2009 (Resolution 2032).

REPORT  
John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:\* Boone Co. – Pine Plantation Removal Request, Kinnikinnick Creek Nature Preserve

The Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) seeks approval to commercially harvest trees from within two pine plantations located along the boundary and partially within Kinnikinnick Creek Nature Preserve. Pine plantation #1 is 4.5 acres in size and consists of red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) trees that are 60+ years old. This plantation is targeted for a complete timber harvest. Pine plantation #2 is 8.2 acres in size and consists of a mixture of red and white pine trees (*Pinus strobus*) that are also approximately 60+ years old. The portion of pine plantation #2 outside of the nature preserve buffer would have a tree thinning harvest resulting in an approximate 40%

reduction in trees with an emphasis on leaving larger white pines. The portion of pine plantation #2 which extends into nature preserve buffer would have all pine trees removed. A timber harvest company would harvest the pine trees for pulp and/or saw logs using tracked machinery during the winter months to minimize soil disturbance. Any slash or other woody debris resulting from the timber harvesting operation would be burned on-site by BCCD staff. Areas that undergo complete tree removal would be restored to native oak-hickory woodland. Over time, oak and hickory trees would be planted on these sites by BCCD staff. The goal is to have these trees propagated by BCCD staff from seed collected on nature preserve grounds. This will ensure a local genotype is used. The funds acquired from the commercial timber harvest would be used to support management and restoration activities at the site and off set some of the costs associated with oak and hickory propagation.

REPORT

John Nelson, Kelly Neal  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Pine Plantation  
Removal

Item 16:\* Cook Co. – Butterfly Translocation Request, Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve

Silver-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*) is a circumpolar species whose range includes most of northern North America. The species is an uncommon butterfly in Illinois. It is largely confined to the northern half of the state and is restricted to higher quality prairie settings. Large populations exist at Goose Lake Prairie and the Iroquois County State Wildlife Area. Numerous small populations have been reported. These typically consist of very small numbers of individuals. The butterfly is found in wet-mesic to wet prairie settings, and it is likely that a combination of host plant availability, nectar source availability, and vegetation structure define the species' habitat. Plants in the genus *Viola* are the obligate larval hosts. The silver-bordered fritillary is not listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois, nor is it a candidate for listing at either the state or the federal level. The species is highly colonial throughout much of its range. This highly colonial nature, combined with a narrow range of host plants, has resulted in the species becoming rare in peripheral parts of its range or in disjunct populations. The Chicago Academy of Sciences proposes to reintroduce this species to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. The silver-bordered fritillary was previously recorded at the site, but has not been found since 2000. The decline of the butterfly occurred during a time of degradation of the wet-mesic prairie plant community due to hydrologic alteration prior to 2000. A hydrology restoration project was begun in 1999 and by 2001, the water table had been restored and significant population increases of several *Viola* species resulted in the wet-mesic prairie areas preferred by this butterfly. Gravid females have been collected from the Commonwealth Edison Prairie adjacent to Goose Lake Prairie State Park in Grundy County. They were taken to Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum where oviposition will occur. Larvae will be reared to pupation on cut leaves from host plants. Translocation is proposed for fall of 2009 with INPC approval. Genetic information is not available on either the donor population or the population that once

occurred at Gensburg-Markham, but it is believed that the two locations are close enough to have allowed for at least some genetic flow. If translocated, the population will be monitored annually.

REPORT  
Dr. Doug Taron  
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum  
Kelly Neal  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Butterfly Translocation

Item 17:\* Lake Co. – Dam Removal Request, Edward L. Ryerson Nature Preserve

The LCFPD, landowner of Edward L. Ryerson Nature Preserve, proposes to remove a dam (3 feet high x 97 feet long) on the Des Plaines River adjacent to the Nature Preserve to enhance habitat, stabilize the river section, improve navigability, and reconnect and increase genetic flow. This proposal supports a regional effort in northeastern Illinois to remove dams restoring fragmented river segments into healthy ecosystems that allow fish access, stabilize eroding streambanks, and deter sediment collection which will improve the local communities' drinking water quality and lowering filtration costs. The 288.23-acre site, dedicated on April 27, 1972, contains high-quality floodplain and upland forest communities, which harbor eight state-listed species (INAI #0115). The location of Edward L. Ryerson Nature Preserve along the north bank of the Des Plaines River upstream and downstream of the dam, coupled with the limited topographical relief (40 feet from highest to lowest point) leaves the Nature Preserve vulnerable to hydrological variation, especially the rare flatwoods communities. A draft Master Plan dated January, 1988 for the site states, "Construction of the dam in 1957...altered the flow pattern of the river by increasing bank overflow upstream." Engineering studies conducted on behalf of LCFPD show that the dam now has little impact on the river due to a six-foot gap between the sheet pile dam and the bank caused by erosion. Modeling has shown that eliminating the dam will lower the surface level of the water approximately four inches in the vicinity of the Nature Preserve. All staging of heavy equipment will occur across the river adjacent to the Nature Preserve on property owned by LCFPD, thereby avoiding direct impacts to the Nature Preserve during dam removal. The INPC staff will review final plans prior to project implementation.

REPORT  
Jim Anderson  
Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Jenny Skufca  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Dam Removal

Item 18:\* Rock Island Co. – Request to Reconstruct Existing Foreslopes and Extend Drainage Pipes, Black Hawk Forest Nature Preserve

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) seeks approval to perform emergency road work to correct the eventual collapse of Illinois Route 5 adjacent to and within Black Hawk Forest Nature Preserve by reconstructing side slopes and replacing and extending three culverts. The 106-acre Nature Preserve, owned by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), was recognized for its high-quality forest communities (INAI #0140). The work would address severe erosion issues at the site (0.306 acre within the Nature Preserve boundary) and protect the health and safety of travelers along this route. Prior, and less invasive, emergency road repairs at the site along Illinois Route 5 were approved in 2004 at the INPC staff level. The IDOT and the INPC staff now have concerns that the damage is becoming much worse and more quickly, and are therefore proposing this project on a larger scale to attempt to ameliorate future road repair emergencies. Existing pipes are in poor condition and threaten to undermine the roadway if not replaced. The forest community on the existing foreslope which will be impacted within the Nature Preserve is highly degraded. A total of 44 trees would be removed and replaced at project completion at a one-to-one ratio with desirable native species recommended by the INPC staff. The IDOT has attempted to avoid or satisfactorily mitigate any adverse impacts to the Nature Preserve. The IHPA and the INPC will have the opportunity to review and approve the final plans before the proposed improvement is implemented.

REPORT  
Cassandra Rogers  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Jenny Skufca  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Project

Item 19:\* Will Co. – Bicycle Trail Placement Request, O’Hara Woods Nature Preserve

The Village of Romeoville is seeking approval for the construction of a bicycle trail through the northern edge of O’Hara Woods Nature Preserve. The bicycle trail will link to the regional Commonwealth Edison Corridor Trail, trails associated with the Village’s nearby recreation center, and future neighborhood trails. Half of the proposed trail will be aligned on an existing sewer line which is currently a gravel road used for maintenance vehicles. The other half of the trail will be constructed in open, degraded habitat as northerly as possible without encroaching on a US Army Corps of Engineers’ wetland mitigation area. O’Hara Woods Nature Preserve, owned by the Village of Romeoville, was dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve in 1982. Seventy acres are dedicated nature preserve, and 10 acres are dedicated nature preserve buffer. The site is known as a high-quality prairie grove that historically provided habitat for the endangered Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*). The site is managed by the Village of Romeoville’s Parks and Recreation Department. The Village has concentrated its management activities on public use, not the stewardship

of natural communities. Although bicycle riding at this site was never considered an allowable use at the time of dedication, nor was it ever approved in the site's master plan or management schedule, the urban site has had a history of bicycle use. After the site became a nature preserve, unauthorized bicycle use continued due to proximity to recreational facilities and nearby bike trails. It is intended that the installation of a trail will focus cyclists to one area authorized for this activity. This proposal includes the deterrence of unauthorized uses by installing bollards, signs, bicycle racks, and split rail fencing in key areas. In addition to the trail installation and extension, a joint management partnership between the Village of Romeoville and the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) will result in an improvement of natural conditions within the Nature Preserve and enhanced upkeep of the bicycle trail which will enter the adjacent property, a recent acquisition by the FPDWC and a future proposal for Nature Preserve addition.

REPORT  
Robert Ijams  
Hitchcock Design Group  
Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Bicycle Trail

Item 20: Election of Officers – INPC Nominating Committee Report

REPORT  
Bruce Ross-Shannon, Ronald Flemal  
Nominating Committee  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Officers

Item 21: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 22: Other Business

Item 23: Adjournment