



Co-Partners of the Volunteer Stewardship Network

Gatherings Online

*A monthly email newsletter of the Volunteer Stewardship Network
published by The Nature Conservancy*

*To unsubscribe to this newsletter or if you would like to contribute articles, stories, or announcements to be published in future newsletters, please send them to Karen Tharp at ktharp@tnc.org by the first day of each month.
The next newsletter deadline is **Friday, September 1st**.*

AUGUST 2006

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes.
- Marcel Proust*

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I. NEWS

East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program Unveiled

Encouraged by the success of the first piloted Master Naturalist program in Rock Island in 2005, several partners in east central Illinois decided to develop their own local program. After months of work, they are now proud to unveil the “East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program”, with classes to begin this September. This program is designed to educate and train a corps of volunteers to provide support in the conservation, management, and interpretation of our natural resources and is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension Champaign County, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, and the Urbana Park District along with staff and volunteers from these and other community organizations. The geographic area that covers this program includes the following counties: Champaign, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Lawrence, Livingston, McLean, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Richland, Shelby, and Vermillion counties. The program will include a combination of classroom instruction and field demonstrations that will present a variety of topics including: archaeology, botany, entomology, forests, geology, grasslands, interpreting nature, ornithology, mammalogy, and wetlands.

A partnering opportunity for those groups located in the east central Illinois region.

The East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program is looking for groups and organizations that share a commitment to the conservation, management, and interpretation of natural resources in the East Central Illinois region (see county listing above). In particular, they are interested in partnering with groups and organizations that:

- are seeking volunteers to assist with natural resources management, environmental education programming, and general conservation service projects.
- offer programs and workshops that would be appropriate for Master Naturalists seeking to expand upon their training.

If your group is interested in partnering, contact the University of Illinois Extension at 217.333.7672. For more information on the East Central Illinois Master Naturalist program, visit their website at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/mn/>

Interested in developing a local Master Naturalist program in your neighborhood?

Many of you have said “YES”. An ad-hoc steering committee is currently being organized to develop the organization structure and provide input towards the development of a Master Naturalist state-wide program. There are currently 10+ counties in Illinois that are interested in starting a Master Naturalist program and we are waiting for the recommendations from this committee before moving forward. In addition, we will be closely watching the Rock Island and the East Central Illinois programs for guidance on how to replicate this model program to other areas across the state. More updates will be provided as they develop.

Call for Entries: People and the Prairie Conservation Awards

The State Journal-Register in Springfield is seeking nominations for outstanding nonprofit organizations, volunteer, educator, natural resources professional and landowner in Cass, Christian, Greene, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott counties. This award was established to recognize individuals and organizations that have moved the cause of conservation and outdoor recreation forward in central Illinois. Notable this year is the addition of a category to recognize a professional in the natural resources field that goes above and beyond the requirements of the job. The award will be named in honor of Frank Bellrose, the Havana waterfowl researcher who died in 2005 at age 88. Participation is crucial to keeping the awards program going. Please feel free to forward this message to anyone who might be willing to make a nomination. Rules and judge bios are available at www.sj-r.com. Click on features, then Outdoors. The deadline for entries is August 18.

II. VOLUNTEER AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Adopt-a-Beach Event

Come out to the Annual September Adopt-a-Beach Event, Saturday, September 16, 2006, 9 am to noon. Join the Alliance for the Great Lakes (formerly Lake Michigan Federation) and be part of the world's largest shoreline cleanup. Volunteers flock to area beaches to lend a hand to improve lake health and enjoy our Great Lakes. The September Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup serves to raise public awareness about beach pollution and encourages responsible behavior through education and outreach. Because this event is coordinated on an international level through the Ocean Conservancy, the data collected is valuable in contributing to the passing of clean water legislation and educating individuals. Take on a leadership role and shine as a Site Coordinator for the annual cleanup. Have questions? Contact Gina Lettiere, Volunteer Coordinator with the Alliance. She can be reached at glettieri@greatlakes.org or 312-939-0838 ext. 228. For more information about the Alliance for the Great Lakes, visit www.greatlakes.org

Illinois' Ride for the Environment – Rolling on the River

A call for volunteers and participants for this new Labor Day event – cycling and great outdoor activities for all – to be held on September 2-3, 2006. This event will benefit the IL Environmental Council, Prairie Rivers Network and the IL Stewardship Alliance.

- ◆ Biggest bicycle ride in Illinois Labor Day Weekend (Saturday September 2)—to help protect and improve IL environment
- ◆ Bicycle the scenic, rural, low traffic roads of the Fox River valley (Yorkville/Plano) on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend
- ◆ Cycling for all skill levels on 10, 25, 45, 62, 100 mi routes
- ◆ Five Rest stops include Silver Springs State Park, fully supported ride with mechanical and first aid assistance
- ◆ Post ride party, music and meal featuring organic food by Organic Valley, Organic Prairie, GoGo Organics

- ◆ Eco-activities make this an event like no other—try your hand at Nordic walking, flycasting, birding, stargazing, water sampling, bug hunt, IL Raptor Center’s program with owls, hawks and eagles and lots more (Great for kids and adults)
- ◆ Register for ONE DAY for the cycling
- ◆ OR Register for WEEKEND PACKAGE and ALSO get camping, canoeing and kayaking on the Fox River
- ◆ Sponsors/partners include Prairie Rivers Network, IL Stewardship Alliance, IL DNR, Openlands, IL Chapter Sierra Club, Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Fox, National Wildlife Federation, Trips for Kids, Recyclery, Chicago Wilderness
- ◆ Bring the family, create a team and enjoy big discounts. Kids FREE
- ◆ Charity ride to protect and improve Illinois’ environment—fundraise and win great prizes like jersey, Patagonia clothing, travel to Mexico and overnight downtown Chicago in private condo
- ◆ All inclusive pricing—sign up online and leave the check book behind
- ◆ First annual event, underwritten by Lumpkin Family Foundation and Grand Victoria Foundation.

Prizes like custom event jersey, Synchronia vests, family tent and trip to Mexico for fundraising. See website under prizes and incentives. Great volunteer opportunities offer two nights free camping, goody bag and tshirt. To register online go to www.rollingriverride.org or call Marise at 217.429.1870

Part-Time Restoration Assistant – Lincoln Park Conservancy

The Lincoln Park Conservancy in Chicago is seeking an experienced, part-time Restoration Assistant to start immediately. This position will help maintain the native plant communities at their two outdoor park sites and will assist the volunteer gardeners. The ideal candidate would be a self-motivated professional with field experience in native Midwestern plant restoration. They are looking for an organized individual with a mastery of plant identification, and the diplomacy skills necessary to represent the organization while in the field and to work with volunteers. Must be physically strong and able to work well both independently and as part of a team. This is a rewarding position and the right individual can grow with the organization into a full-time position. Start date: Now through mid-November 2006; Salary: \$15/hour; Hours: Part-time 15 to 20 hours per week including some Saturday mornings. For a complete job description and more details contact Steven Zelner at the Lincoln Park Conservancy at 773-883-PARK or folp@earthlink.net.

III. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

CW Midwest Burn Training Workshops

The Chicago Wilderness Natural Resources Management Team is pleased to offer two fall sessions of the CW Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn Crew Member Training. Based on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s (NWCG) S-130 and S-190 courses, this training covers the basics of such topics as fire behavior, controlled burn techniques, and smoke management.

The objective is to provide participants with the background necessary to safely participate on the crew of a controlled burn. ***Please be advised that while many CW land-owning organizations accept this course as their standard minimum crew member training, it does NOT carry the official NWCG S-130/S-190 certification.***

- Monday and Tuesday, September 11 & 12 at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL
- Saturday and Sunday, September 23 & 24 at the Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland, IL

Both of these two-day workshops are identical and so participants only need to attend one. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. For more information and/or to register, contact Chris Mulvaney at (847) 242-6424 or cmulvaney@chicagowilderness.org.

Wetland Invaders Webcast – August 9

ONLINE Wednesday, August 9 from 11:45 to 1:00 pm Eastern time for a presentation and discussion on wetland invasive species.

This webcast of The Stewardship Network is hosted and sponsored by MSU Global Ventures with support from the USFS Northern Initiatives Electronic Commons. To join the meeting, please click on the following link www.stewardshipnetworkwebcast.org on Wednesday, August 9 anytime after 11:45am EDT: and log in anytime after 11:45am Eastern time. If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact Todd Shunneson at 414-254-0122. We'd also encourage everyone to do a quick trial run AHEAD OF TIME (by going to http://www.instantlyglobal.com/system_test) to make sure you are able to access the meeting on your computer. If you try beforehand and encounter difficulties Todd will be able to help you discover what the problem is. Once you have logged in to the meeting, you will be able to ask questions of and share information with these experts and others who join us online. You will be able to hear the presenters through speakers on your computer (make sure they are turned on!). You will be able to share your thoughts, ideas, questions, and perspective via your keyboard. Participants will be able to see everyone's typed comments.

Habitat Clinic – Glacial Park, McHenry County, August 19

The Habitat Project and the Volunteer Stewardship Network invite all restoration volunteers, monitors, interpreters, and advocates to join us this spring and summer for Habitat Clinics at various sites in different parts of Chicago Wilderness. The next habitat clinic is scheduled for Saturday, August 19 from 9 am-noon at Glacial Park in McHenry County. Details of the clinic are listed below. Information about this and other habitat clinics are available on line at www.habitatproject.org. Please register by e-mailing Shelley Ancheta at chicagowildthings@yahoo.com or calling 847-965-9239. Habitat clinics are for Chicago Wilderness conservation volunteers (current and potential).

Glacial Park, McHenry County - Saturday, August 19, 9 am - noon

Owned by the McHenry County Conservation District, Glacial Park comprises 3,125 acres with 400 designated as a nature preserve. This diverse site, which was farmed before purchase, has delta kames, glacial moraines, tallgrass savannas, kettles, meadows, and Nippersink Creek. A large, enthusiastic corps of volunteers has done much restoration at this site.

Ed Collins of the McHenry County Conservation District will moderate the Habitat Clinic. Collins Paul De Muth, Ken Talaga, and other volunteer site stewards will discuss the following topics:

- Volunteer /Staff Interaction Glacial Park has 15 to 20 stewards in a yearlong apprenticeship-training program. Once apprentice stewards complete the program, they can go to any site in McHenry County. Some projects are so large and physically

complex that staff must do them. An example is the remeandering of Nippersink Creek that required heavy equipment. For this and other wetland projects, volunteers played a supportive role, planting and clearing brush.

- Remeandering of Nippersink Creek This is the fifth anniversary year of the remeandering project, which actually began in the early 1990s. Collins will review results and lessons learned.
- Garlic Mustard Control McHenry County is carrying out an experimental project in which a non-native plant is introduced to areas infested with garlic mustard. The plant outcompetes the garlic mustard and kills it off, but is outcompeted in turn by native species.

Directions: Take Route 31 Through the city of McHenry. Go north about nine miles to Harts Road. Turn west onto Harts Road and follow it a half-mile to the park.

Forestry Management Workshop, August 23

As urban areas continue to grow and the need for agriculture land remains strong, many forest landowners are feeling the pressure of encroaching development and, in Illinois, a future with increased taxation on forest lands. The future of Illinois and Iowa forestland lies in the hands of its private landowners. Unfortunately, most forest landowners lack the technical knowledge to properly manage their forestland, and to develop an approved forest management plan to reduce future tax assessment. To help address these landowner concerns, a Forestry Management Workshop will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Illinois City, Illinois. Landowners will have the opportunity to learn strategies for managing their forest land using best management practices; techniques that landowners can use to develop a forest management plan. Breakout sessions and demonstrations include: tree identification/invasive species control; forest resource inventory; mock timber sale; tree pruning/planting; crop tree release; and woodland wildlife management. Vendors and service agencies will also be on hand with various demonstrations, booths, displays, and knowledgeable staff to answer your questions. To learn more about the Forestry Management Workshop or to register in advance, contact Interstate Resource Conservation & Development at (309) 764-1486 ext. 4. Advanced registration is required. Cost is \$10/person before August 11th and includes lunch, handouts, and attendance to all workshops and demonstrations. After August 11th, registration will be \$15/person. The Expo will provide excellent opportunities for landowners to become aware of the wide range of forestry management resources available within our community, so register early!

IV. CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

Humans and Nature – Water for All

Save the date for “Humans and Nature – Water for All” a meeting that will provide an update on water issues for the Chicago Wilderness Community and Interested Citizens. It will be held on August 19 at the Peggy Notebaert Museum from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. The meeting will consist of two sessions designed to inform interested citizens and organizations about critical water issues currently facing the Chicago metropolitan area. The first session will address groundwater planning in Northeastern Illinois. The second session will focus on the confirmation of the Great Lakes Annex and what that might mean for Illinois. The information and ideas presented will provide background on the important water deliberations which will occur this fall and winter. Each session will begin with remarks by two leaders in the subject area. These talks will be followed by comments from a panel and an ample period for questions and comments from the floor. Confirmed speakers include Derek Winstanley, Chief, Illinois

State Water Survey; Joyce O'Keefe, Deputy Director of Openlands and a leader in water issues in Northeastern Illinois; and J. Ron Engel, Center for Humans and Nature, noted environmental ethicist and author of *Sacred Sands*. Refreshments will be served at 8:30 am and the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 am. A light breakfast, coffee breaks, and box lunches will be provided. Attendance will be limited to 150; the event is free of charge. Please indicate your commitment to attend by confirming with the following email address: paulheltne@humansandnature.org. This day long series of talks and panels will be hosted by the Center for Humans and Nature and the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie – 10th Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to join the U.S. Forest Service and our many friends and partners in celebrating Midwin's 10th Anniversary through a series of events listed below. For more details, see the Midwin website (www.fs.fed.us/mntp/) or call 815-423-6370.

Thursday, August 24 - Symposium: "10 Years of Progress in Restoration and Research at Midwin" held at the University of St. Francis (Joliet), 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Cindy Klein at 815-423-6370.

Friday, August 25 – Tour and Reception: "Prairie Restoration at Midwin" tour from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. followed by a reception: From 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Midwin Headquarters.

Saturday, August 26 - Open House and Exhibits: From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Midwin Headquarters. Bring the whole family to enjoy raptor and snake exhibits, nature games for kids, Smokey Bear and the Junior Ranger Program, ideas for landscaping with native plants, horse-drawn wagon rides, a Volksmarch, prairie tour, twilight bike ride (6:00 p.m.), photography exhibition, and a volunteer ecological restoration workday perfect for the whole family (9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

Habitat Hootenany – September 9

Save the date for the 2nd Annual Habitat Hootenany, scheduled for Saturday, September 9 from 3 to 6 pm. More information will follow in the September newsletter or you may contact Karen Glennemeier at kglennemeier@audubon.org.

2006 Janet Meakin Poor Symposium – Call for Posters

Urban Ecology, Celebrating 10 Years of Chicago Wilderness

October 20, 2006 at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois

According to the US Census Bureau, approximately 79% of the American population lives in urban areas, yet urban ecosystems remain poorly understood. Through urban ecology, the natural environments of cities are studied to understand the extent of those resources and the way they are affected by pollution, over-development, fragmentation, invasive species, and other human pressures. The subject also examines public health and quality of life issues, from economic and aesthetic concerns to pollution, urban sprawl, and other threats to raising healthy children and families. This symposium will use the many successes of the Chicago Wilderness' pioneering organization to explore an array of ecological research and land management issues in urban areas. This year's topic will draw scientists, conservationists and preservationists, land managers, and urban planners from across the region and beyond to explore topics on a relatively new branch of environmental studies, urban ecology. Speakers include Marlin Bowles on the Vegetation History of Chicago Wilderness, Laura Musacchio on Metropolitan Landscapes, Stuart Wagenius on Habitat Fragmentation, Liam Heneghan on Urban Soils and Invasives, Mary Ashley on Gene Flow in Oaks, and Paul Gobster on Social Science and Restoration. Keynote speakers include Mary Cadenasso, Sadhu Johnson and John Rogner. The Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium is partially endowed by the friends of Janet Meakin Poor, a Chicago-area conservationist and landscape designer dedicated to

preserving natural habitats. Registration includes morning coffee, light lunch, parking, all symposium handouts and an evening poster session reception. Anyone interested in presenting a poster at this symposium must submit an abstract to the Program Chair before August 30, 2006. Research and stewardship projects involving plants and plant communities are appropriate for presentation. The posters should be no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet. The Program Committee reserves the right to reject posters because of space or program constraints.

Submission of Abstracts:

Each poster presentation submitted must include title, author(s), address(es) and abstract in the following format: Title. Author*1 and Author2 (presenter marked with asterisk). Address1 and phone number. Address2. Abstract. - Underline the title. List the full names of the author(s). If there are multiple authors, superscripts should be used to identify the authors with their affiliations and addresses. The name of the presenter should be marked with an asterisk and the phone number included with the address. Skip one line between the header and the abstract. Abstracts should be descriptive and concise. The scientific name, in italics, should be used the first time an organism is mentioned. Use Times or a similar font, 12 point size, with one-inch margins. All abstracts should be sent to: Kayri Havens, Program Chair, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, 847-835-8378, khavens@chicagobotanic.org. If possible, we prefer to receive your abstract electronically, as an email attachment in Microsoft Word or rich text format. Otherwise, send both a hard copy and electronic copy on disk to the mailing address above. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is August 30, 2006. Authors will be notified in early September regarding acceptance of their poster. Registration materials will be mailed in September.

2nd Annual National Master Naturalist Conference

This dynamic conference, to be held on November 7-9, 2006 at the Woodlands Radisson in Flagstaff Arizona, will benefit professionals involved in coordinating or administering training and volunteer programs in natural resource conservation, education, and outreach, and those interested in developing a program. Participants will learn from diverse Master Naturalist programs, network with colleagues to enhance existing programs, and obtain resources needed to develop new programs. Plus, Arizona Master Naturalists and Arizona Master Watershed Stewards will show us what Master Naturalist-type programs can accomplish, on a day of off site program sessions in some of the most beautiful natural areas in the United States. Registration deadline is October 1, 2006. There is a \$100 registration fee for this conference, which includes opening social, continental breakfasts, off site field sessions with lunch, morning and afternoon breaks, Program Marketplace social, and post-meeting CD-ROM of Conference Proceedings. Presenters may apply for small grants to help offset travel and lodging costs. Session topics include recruitment & marketing, curriculum development & delivery, liability issues, creating & working effectively in partnerships, group dynamics & conflict resolution, grant writing, volunteer retention, and program evaluation. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/nationalconference>

Invasive Plants in the Midwest

Please mark your calendars for an important meeting on Invasive Plants in the Midwest. The North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) will cosponsor a two-day program (Dec. 13 and 14) on invasive plants in the Midwest. The program will be held during the NCWSS Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Milwaukee, Dec. 12-14, 2006. IPAW and MIPN will also hold their annual meetings at the conference. The Invasive Plants program is designed to meet the needs of and encourage interaction among researchers, land managers, and anyone interested in managing invasive plants. It will include invited presentations, contributed papers and posters, and a series of workshops on the management of garlic

mustard, buckthorn, and multiflora rose, collaboration among researchers and land managers, herbicide use and safety, and several other topics. This meeting will give land Managers and landowners the opportunity to meet with researchers, extension agents, and herbicide and restoration company representatives to discuss the need for further research and products for invasive plant control. Registration is \$40 for one day and \$60 for both days. For more information on the conference, please visit the NCWSS website at www.ncwss.org. Additional information on speakers and workshop topics will be announced in the next few weeks and posted on the NCWSS website and at www.ipaw.org and www.mipn.org. Titles for contributed papers may be submitted on-line at the NCWSS website and must be posted by September 5, 2006. Please select "Annual Meeting" on the green navigation bar to the left. Follow the instructions and fill out the forms completely. For Further Information Contact: Kevin Gibson, Purdue University, (765) 496-2161, <mailto:kgibson@purdue.edu> kgibson@purdue.edu or Kate Howe, Midwest Invasive Plant Network Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, (317) 951- 8818, <mailto:khowe@tnc.org> khowe@tnc.org

Natural Landscaping Seminar – Save the Date, February 24, 2007

Save the date for the Natural Landscaping Seminar to be held on February 24, 2007 at McHenry County College from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Andy Wasowski, nationally known author and lecturer will be presenting. For more information, contact the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee of McHenry County (WPPC) at 815-337-9502. WPPC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of native plants through preservation, propagation, and education.

V. GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation General Matching Grants Program

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization established by Congress to foster cooperative partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation operates a conservation grants program that awards matching grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible grant recipients throughout the U.S., including federal, tribal, state, and local governments; educational institutions; and nonprofit conservation organizations. Matching grants ranging from \$25,000 - \$250,000 are awarded to projects that address the Foundation's priorities and work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests. The next deadline for pre-proposals is September 1, 2006. Invited proposals will be due November 1, 2006. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.nfwf.org/guidelines.cfm>

VI. JUST FOR FUN

You Can Make A Difference - Stop Global Warming

There are many simple things you can do in your daily life — what you eat, what you drive, how you build your home — that can have an effect on your immediate surrounding, and on places as far away as Antarctica. For a list of a few things that you can do visit www.stopglobalwarming.org.

Indian Pipe

From: *Essays on Nature* by Virginia S. Eifert, 1967

Like a creation in white wax set among the ferns and mosses, the Indian pipe on a late summer day puts a special quality of excitement in the woods. Devoid of all color, the strange, brittle-looking pipes stand motionless and unreal. It is as if they were spectres from another world, ghost plants of the forest made tangible through some alchemy of summer. The Indians may have felt this same wonderment at sight of Indian pipes and explained their presence by saying that whenever an Indian sat down for a smoke, and wherever he knocked out the white ashes from his pipe, there the plant called Indian pipe sprang up.

Indian pipe is a saprophyte, not a parasite, which means it lives on dead material in the ground (not on other living things), usually dead wood buried in the rich, soft humus of deep woods. From this there rise the curled-over white stalks with their pipe-like blossoms. They are composed of many white, overlapping scales surrounding a chaste, vase-shaped pistil and dark stamens. The stems are pure white with a few alternate white scales upon them instead of leaves. For the Indian pipe has no true leaves and no particle of greenness. Occasionally there is a hint of pale pink or red in flower or stem, but usually it is that stark ice-white which, as the plant ages, slowly blackens. At first only the scales and parts of the flower are tipped with accents of ebony. Then slowly the ripening flower stands erect and the whole plant turns black.

Indian pipe is in the family of Heaths, Ericaceae, in the company of pyrolas, blueberries, wintergreen, cranberry, rhododendron, and many more which require a specialized acid soil. Of them all, perhaps, Indian pipe is least exacting in its habitat and is found more commonly than other Heaths in Illinois woodlands. It comes at a time when little is in bloom in the woods. Now it is August and September. The sunflowers and goldenrods and asters blossom along the roads and over the uplands. In the woods the clear red berries of spikenard ripen. The clubs of scarlet seeds of the jack-in-the-pulpit and dragon arum ripen until they mark flaming accents in the woods. It is a time of ripening, of seeding. Yet now on a dark, leaf-strewn mossy bank there has sprung up that cluster of white wax pipes. They are as aloof and strange and wild as the pipe of an Indian which had been forgotten in the woods – wraith-like as the vision of a flower. (August 1950)

Native Bees

Check out www.ebeehoney.com/Pollination.html, a website that recently was recommended on the Stewards Listserv regarding native bees and their behavior.

Portraits from Trail of History

Vivid detail and vibrant hues make the colorful participants from the McHenry County Conservation District's Trail of History come to life in a presentation of original watercolor portraits by artist Bev Grosse of the Grosse Gallery in Algonquin. This dazzling exhibit will be on display from July 29 - August 27 at the MCCD Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd. in Crystal Lake. You'll also have a chance to talk with the artist and actually meet the people behind the pictures (in their historical attire, of course) at a special reception from 1 pm - 4 pm on Sunday, August 20 at the Prairieview Education Center. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a chance for you to win fun door prizes, too, including tickets to this year's Trail of History! For more information, please call the MCCD Prairieview Education Center at 815-479-5779.

Thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to this newsletter: Debbie Maurer, Nancy Gonsiorek, Gina Lettiere, Julie Sacco, Bob Szafoni, Susan Fargo, Liz Haynes, Carolyn Brown Hodge, Kathy Garness, Chris Mulvaney and Sheli Eisele AND for contributions from the following website: www.stewardshipnetwork.org AND the book "Essays on Nature" by Virginia S. Eifert.