

Volunteer Vision

November 2000 -

August 2010

30,663

volunteer hours
donated to hands-on
restoration of the
Nygren
Wetland Preserve

Outstanding Volunteers 2010

**Jim and Marion Applegate,
Scott Kruger & Guy Smith**

Jim and Marion Applegate are members of NLI's education committee, and **Marion** also serves on the NLI board of trustees. Both are dedicated to educating people about their part in nature.

Scott Kruger earned his Hornaday Silver Award for projects at the Nygren Preserve and Burr Oak Valley Preserve, and he monitored turtles and vegetation this past summer.

Guy Smith generously donates his time and many talents as part of the Tuesday and Wednesday crews and is known far and wide as "NLI volunteer of the century."

These outstanding volunteers were recognized at our picnic on August 12. Look for their names on the plaque at the Nygren Wetland Preserve, along with the names of Volunteers of the Year who have been honored since 2001.

Wish List

For restoration activities
of the
Natural Land Institute

Pickup truck

Seed collection makes a difference

Groups, families and individuals are invited to help collect prairie seeds at NLI's **Fall Harvest Day on October 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** at the Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 West Rockton Road, Rockton. Seed collecting is one of the critical steps contributing to the ongoing restoration of the preserve, and we need your help!

You can learn from experts on plant identification and collection how to gather the seeds of plants like **Indian grass, yellow coneflower** and **little bluestem**. The seeds you collect will be dried, cleaned, stored and planted next spring in the effort to duplicate as closely as possible the original prairie that we know once existed at the preserve.

While you're there, you might catch sight of animals such as **river otters, frogs and turtles** that make their homes along the river banks and in oxbow lakes. With fall migration underway, this is an exciting time to see **warblers, juncos, kinglets, sandhill cranes** and waterfowl species using our restored wetlands as they make their journeys south.

The Nygren Wetland Preserve is being restored to protect water quality, soils, and native plants and animals. Seed collecting is a way to support land conservation and **make a real difference!**

The preserve is located a mile west of Rockton. Fall Harvest Day is free and open to the public.

Bur oak at Nygren Preserve still has a few good years

The "signature" oak at our Nygren Wetland Preserve is in fact at the end of its journey. The tree is about 250 to 300 years old, the normal life span of this species and is dying. It will stand and be wonderful habitat for many cavity nesting birds as well as a great perch for bald eagles. This tree will still have years of usefulness to wildlife!

NLI Volunteer Opportunities and Events

Sturdy shoes, long sleeves, pants and gloves are recommended. Please be prepared to work outside and bring a snack and water.

Tuesdays at various preserves 9:00 a.m. – noon. Pecatonica Ridge Prairie on Oct. 19, Nov. 23, Dec. 21. Call 815.964.6666 for other locations and directions.

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 West Rockton Road in Rockton. Meet at the red shed. No need to call ahead. For information call 815.964.6666.

Some Fridays 9:00 a.m. – noon. Please call ahead!

Colman Dells Preserve, southwest of Rockford. Call Lowell at 815.963.5402 or NLI at 815.964.6666 for directions and information.

Save the dates!

Fall Harvest Day

Saturday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Nygren Wetland Preserve, 3190 W. Rockton Road, Rockton

Nygren Preserve Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 23, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
North Pointe campus, 5605 East Rockton Road, Roscoe. \$50 per person; table sponsor \$1,000

Nygren Wetland Preserve Art Exhibit

Show runs through November 30 at Burpee Museum of Natural History, Mahlborg Auditorium, 737 N. Main St., Rockford, during regular museum hours: Mon.-Fri. noon to 5:00 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thank you to our Tenth Anniversary sponsors: Rockford City Market, Hamilton Sundstrand, Applied Ecological Services, Stillman Bank, Bugler Design, Framemakers, Rockford Litho, Rockford Register Star

'To show appreciation of the earth is the most honorable act of humankind' Carl H. Nygren





Northern Flicker at the Nygren Wetland Preserve by Paul Crittenden



Student's at NLI's first Land Conservation Camp discovered leopard frogs in the oxbow lake.

Volunteers, please sign in!

You and the time you devote to volunteering for the Natural Land Institute are very important. Each time you help – whether at the Nygren Wetland Preserve, at other areas protected by NLI, or at the office – please record your name and the time you spend.

Grant applications often ask how much help we receive from volunteers, plus we want to be able to acknowledge you and your generous contributions.

The sign-in book at the Nygren Wetland Preserve is located in the office in the shed. Other hours can be reported to Sue at 815-964-6666 or skmerchant@aol.com

Around the Preserve

The seed collecting season is in full swing now! Every non-rainy day has been spent collecting various native species of seeds to be used at the Nygren Wetland Preserve. Many hands make short work of adding pounds of seed to our seed room. Just last week the Wednesday crew collected over 32 pounds of side oats gramma grass! The best part of seed collecting is that hopefully the hottest days of summer are behind us, and we can welcome the cool days of fall.

The tawny brown color of the grasses maturing has a calming effect on your soul. Watch long enough and you will see yellow, red, and purple move across the landscape in waves. Stand in it and you can feel the energy of wind and earth moving through the living system we call prairie.

Enjoy the colors! *Greg Keilback, Stewardship Director*

Volunteers helped make Conservation Camp and Wildflower Weekend successful

Conservation Camp, July 12 to 16: Severson Dells Nature Center, Rockford Park District, Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District, Pheasants Forever, and Nicholson Lawn and Garden, helped NLI make our first day-camp a memorable event. Thanks also to Charlie Sturm for providing pizza and to Nick DeBruler from Beef 'ARoo for lunches. Jim and Marion Applegate chronicled the adventures of the ten campers in a photo journal and gave each camper a copy.

Wildflower Weekend, July 16 to 18: Mike Bugler created the art work for the public service announcement in the Rockford Register Star. Mary Jane Baucom, Marilyn Heneghan, Malia Hennessy, Charlie Sturm, Denny Hall, Jerry Paulson, Mike Bugler, Sheryl Hall, Vivian Anderson, Rick Barton, Patricia Kunz, Nancy Gates and Bonnie Barton provided information at the greeting station. Richard Conklin and Gene Shepherd provided tractor transportation to and from the wetlands. Tour guides in the Anne Meyer Garden were Marion Applegate, Jim Applegate, Karen Blomgren, Anita Johnson, Ellen Hinde, Don Heneghan, Judy Letourneau, Keith Blackmore and Denise Miglin. Our birders were Lee and Lynda Johnson, Sue Weeg, Jack and Joyce Armstrong and Mary Kisamore. Jane Dobbs, Emily Keilback and interns Scott Kruger, India Jones and Courtney Schultz parked cars. Nancy Gates, Don Miller, Kathy Martiniz and Mark Maffei met visitors and talked with them about the Nygren Wetland restoration. Exhibitors were "Hoo" Haven, Josh Sage from Boone Co. Conservation District, Don Miller from Severson Dells and Sara Pfannkuche, archeologist. India Jones hosted a turtle exhibit. Rich Muniz, Rick Barton, and Sabrina Olivas led the Raccoon Creek biology study. Chuck and Karen Blomgren provided water and snacks for the volunteers, and Jim and Marion Applegate helped deliver them. Greg Keilback also recruited the following volunteers to help both days: Loren Schaffer, Lute Wytttenbach, Bill Walz, Dave Johnson, Guy Smith and Scott Kruger. Judy Barnard provided water and sandwiches for the volunteers, presenters and visitors. Marion Applegate and Karen Blomgren coordinated volunteers. **Thanks to everyone for their help with these events!**

Thank You Volunteers! June, July and August 2010

Carol Anderson, Vivian Anderson, Jim & Marion Applegate, Bob Arevalo & St. Anthony group, Jack & Joyce Armstrong, Dave Arnold, Judy Barnard, Rick Barton, Jackie Batista, Mary Jane Baucom, Keith & Mary Blackmore, Phil & Kay Blair, Mark Blassage, Karen Blomgren, Lucas Bradley, Mike Bugler, Lou Cambier, Stanley Campbell, Mary Caskey, Richard Conklin, Diane Dailing, Frank Dajka, Mike Descamps, Dave Derwent, Jane Dobbs, Lowell Edwards, Jay Evans, Barbara Fell, Loren Floto, Bill Fruin, Nancy Gates, Jim Gibson, Debra Grall, Sheryl Almquist Hall, Terrie & Denny Hall, Marilyn & Don Heneghan, Malia & William Hennessy, Ray Herzer, Ellen Hinde, Sally Hoff, Nick Holcomb, Larry & Lois Holeyton, Russ Johansson, Dave Johnson, Laverne Johnson, Lee & Lynda Johnson, Emily Keilback, Mark Keister, Martin Kehoe, Mary Kisamore, Scott Kruger, Tyler Kugler, Terry Laman, Michelle Lauber, Dennis Leaf, Judy Letourneau, John Lichty, Robert Lindvall, Ruth Little, Patrick Luetkenhaus, Mark Maffei, Kathy Martinez, Jim McFarlane, Gary McIntyre, Don Miller, Mary Mohaupt, Rich Muniz, Gordon Neese, Nicholson Hardware, Sabrina Olivas, Rebecca Olson, Mike Paul, Sara Pfannkuche, Pheasants Forever, Tom Ptacin, Bob Ramirez, Linda Randecker, Anne Remington, Rockton Sportsman's Club, Bruce Ross-Shannon, Rick Rudey, Josh Sage, Loren Schafer, Merle Schandelmeier, Marianna Seipts, Penny Shaw, Gene Shepherd, Jim Shotliff, Guy Smith, Tyler Smith, Scott Steurer, Charlie Sturm, Alice Sterling, Scott Sullivan, Trip Thienemann, Rich & Mary Ann Toppe, Jessica Vandebloom, Randy Vincent, Jim Wagoner, William Walz, Sue Weeg, Dan & Barbara Williams, Nancy Williamson, Teresa Wilmot, Lois Winkel, Sara Winter, Lute Wytttenbach

Thank you to all who so generously give their time and expertise to land conservation.