VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Land Stewardship

With properties spread across the region, the Natural Land Institute offers a variety of ways for you to make a difference. Land stewardship volunteer opportunities are how you can help take care of the land for the benefit of life on earth now and in the future.

By supporting projects that range from creating wildlife habitat to conserving rare species, you’ll find the rewards of volunteering to be truly limitless. Get involved. Build a legacy protecting our precious natural lands for your grandchildren and their children.

No experience necessary!

Individuals or groups who wish to participate in one of the following volunteer land stewardship days should contact NLI staff or the Site Steward listed below for more information and to confirm participation:

Zach Grycan, Director of Stewardship:
920/912-4338, zgrycan@naturalland.org

Tyler Pellegrini, Restoration Ecologist:
815/970-5012, tpellegrini@naturalland.org

Laura Helmich, Stewardship Technician:
712-301-1208, lhelmich@naturalland.org

Dion Faith, Site Steward/Silver Creek Woods:
815/520-6916, Docfaith68@yahoo.com

Chris Reisetter, Site Steward/H.D. Colman Dells:
reisettere@gmail.com

You are welcome to help for part of the time listed or during the entire time listed for each stewardship day.

What to Bring
NLI provides tools, gloves and water (and sometimes special snacks!). If you plan to stay the duration, you may want to bring a sack lunch. Dress for the weather. Long sleeves, pants, and closed toe shoes or sturdy boots are recommended.

See next page for locations and days of volunteer opportunities.
WEEKLY WEDNESDAY
Nygren Wetland Preserve
Address: 3190 W. Rockton Rd., Rockton, IL 61072
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
NLI’s most ambitious land restoration to date hosts a complex of habitats and rare species. Volunteer tasks include control and removal of bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard or other invasive species, planting / collecting seeds, helping in the greenhouse, planting plugs, general maintenance, bird and mammal monitoring, prescribed burns, and set-up for special events. Enjoy the beauty of the prairies and wetlands while you work.

FIRST SATURDAY and EVERY THURSDAY
Burr Oak Valley Preserve
Directions: meet across from Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, 7404 Elevator Rd., Roscoe, IL 61073
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
The rare habitats found here were in peril until you stepped in to help out. Play a role in tackling the invasive threats in the remnant prairies and woodlands of this preserve. Tasks include removing and controlling the non-native woody brush, prescribed burns and seed collection.

THIRD SATURDAY
Silver Creek Woods Preserve
Directions: 5753 Prairie Rd., Rockford, IL 61102, a few miles southwest of town, just north of Fuller Memorial Forest Preserve.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Site Steward: Dion Faith
Join us at this preserve, originally donated to NLI by our founders George and Barbara Fell, to assist with a variety of restoration work including the removal and treatment of bush honeysuckle and common buckthorn, and burning of brush piles. Explore the beauty of this private natural area while you provide community service.

FOURTH FRIDAY
William & Gayle Keefer Nature Reserve
Location and Directions: Rockton, IL. (Contact Zach or Tyler for directions.)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Contact: Laura Helmich
The Keefer Nature Reserve has an old quarry on a portion of the site that is recovering to a natural area. The wooded area is carpeted with wildflowers in the spring and hosts Chinquapin oak, ironwood and other native trees. Work needs to be done to remove the invasive bush honeysuckle and you can help restore this special place when you volunteer.