

NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land
in Northern Illinois

Notes from the Field

Vol. I, No. 1 / Summer, 2015



Common Gallinule Seen

In June Photographer Michael Descamps saw the Common Gallinule shown above at Nygren Wetland Preserve. It is on the State Endangered Species List. The Least Bittern (on the State Threatened list) was also seen at Nygren Wetland. They may have been displaced from their usual marsh habitat on the Pecatonica River due to flood conditions.

NLI Stewardship Transition



NLI Welcomes Zachary Grycan as our new Director of Stewardship!

Zachary Grycan grew up in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and attained a B.S. in General Resource Management and Conservation Biology from UW-Stevens Point. Throughout his time as an undergraduate, he volunteered with a variety of natural resource organizations. He also volunteered and assisted with food co-ops and sustainable agriculture. He believes that land stewardship should be applied at-large to include the backyard and the barnyard.

Zach comes to us from a nationally-renowned company that specializes in ecosystem restoration and re-creation, where he has been working as a Restoration Foreman and Construction Supervisor. He has also worked as a community outreach coordinator. Botanizing, birdwatching, and fostering his interest in herps are all things he loves to do in his spare time.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to come on board at Natural Land Institute. I'm impressed by what NLI has accomplished and I very much look forward to assisting with its future operations." Please join us in welcoming Zach!

Thanks to Kevin

Kevin Rohling, NLI's Director of Stewardship, has taken a new job in southern Illinois as the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Project Coordinator and is now living in Marion, Ill. We extend our gratitude to Kevin for the past three years he has dedicated to stewarding NLI preserves and working with the Heritage LandKeepers (NLI's family of land owners with conservation easements).

Some of Kevin's many accomplishments during his time with NLI include building a solid volunteer base, establishing strong relationships with partner organizations, organizing additional stewardship days at preserves, and effectively implementing stewardship management plans for NLI preserves. We sincerely wish Kevin and his new wife, Kim (Schmidt), best regards in their future endeavors. Thanks for everything you have done, Kevin, and will continue to do to preserve and protect natural land. 🌿



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