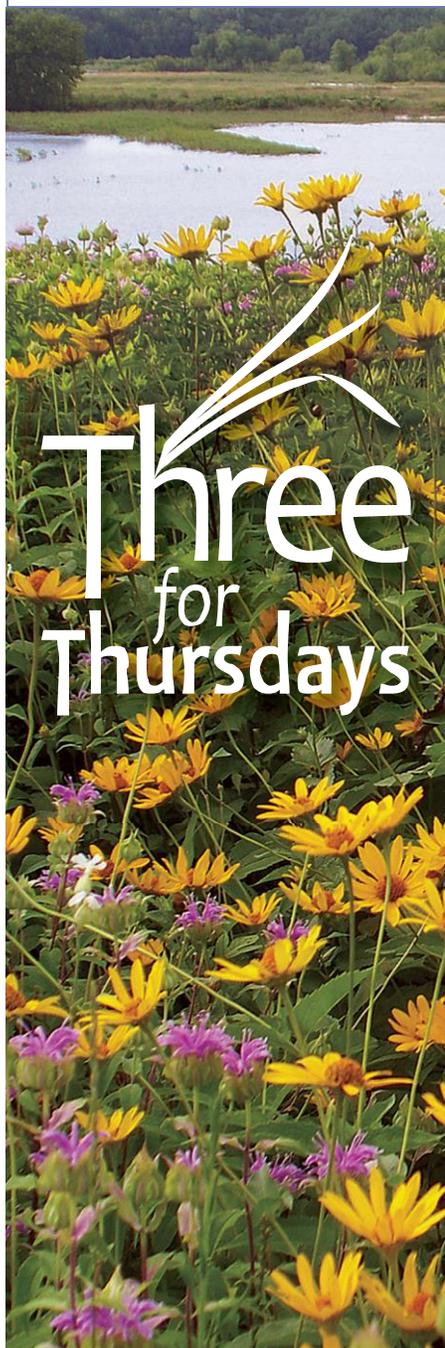


# NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land  
in Northern Illinois



Three  
for  
Thursdays

## The Soil Food Web and Farms as Habitat

Here are some great new very short informative cartoon/videos that can really help us communicate much of what we are doing. The one on soil structure is particularly relevant, but all of them are important. The videos are well produced and informative, but there was one part that is misleading: in the beginning of the first video, the narrator uses a forest as a proof of concept to show how ecosystems can be highly productive without any inputs of fertilizers. The implication is that by adopting best soil management practices we can maintain adequate yields while eliminating the use of fertilizers. This is misleading because there is a fundamental difference between nutrient flows of natural ecosystems and nutrient flows of agricultural ecosystems. On farms, nutrients are exported with every harvest, whereas in a forest nutrients are continuously recycled.

[http://email.c.kajabimail.net/c/eJwdzjFvwyAUBOBfY5ZKCB7YwMAQN4raIZHaKEuXCMOrTlvtxMax\\_O\\_rVLrhdMt9wZZICA2JFhg3nAvGJQNQINODrIXila6l0XrPoZDM01\\_345rYuZhoj5m0VrKKKQUYIJbeVJWSwDWibrzTYASQZNUcb1MhdgUctizLQtdhznOD1A\\_dtvjW9T2mrV1ez7tLmeawnNb78a12n\\_zr\\_u8UPgs\\_Ha8AUHziu1xisYWqDGibJaKcbjgNNT-DQeTff1u255jx5X1fgBAGAP4ANING4w](http://email.c.kajabimail.net/c/eJwdzjFvwyAUBOBfY5ZKCB7YwMAQN4raIZHaKEuXCMOrTlvtxMax_O_rVLrhdMt9wZZICA2JFhg3nAvGJQNQINODrIXila6l0XrPoZDM01_345rYuZhoj5m0VrKKKQUYIJbeVJWSwDWibrzTYASQZNUcb1MhdgUctizLQtdhznOD1A_dtvjW9T2mrV1ez7tLmeawnNb78a12n_zr_u8UPgs_Ha8AUHziu1xisYWqDGibJaKcbjgNNT-DQeTff1u255jx5X1fgBAGAP4ANING4w)

## Healthy Soils Legislation and Policy

I am involved in conversations with the Illinois Environment Council on Healthy Soils Legislation and Policy for Illinois. You can find information on Healthy Soils legislation and policy at [healthsoilspolicy.org](http://healthsoilspolicy.org). The [Policy Map](#) is designed to serve as a reference for groups interested in advancing soil health policy, to capture crowd-sourced information, and to facilitate direct communication and knowledge exchange between farmers, advocacy groups and policymakers within each state, supporting the joint, collective drafting of healthy soils legislation.

**The following 6 states** will have legislation in 2020 that includes soil health: Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Washington. There is **significant support for and work on legislation** that includes soil health for 2020/21 in **Illinois**, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia.

## Soil Health Benefits Birds on our Farms

To protect biological diversity, we need to diversify our farms, food, and the wider landscape. Learn about systems that support long-term ecological sustainability on the farm and in our world, and keep up on the latest ways they are helping agriculture implement practices that accommodate wild nature.

Go to <https://www.wildfarmalliance.org/>. Click on Resources where you can download a free copy of their publication **Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds** for farmers.

Kerry

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