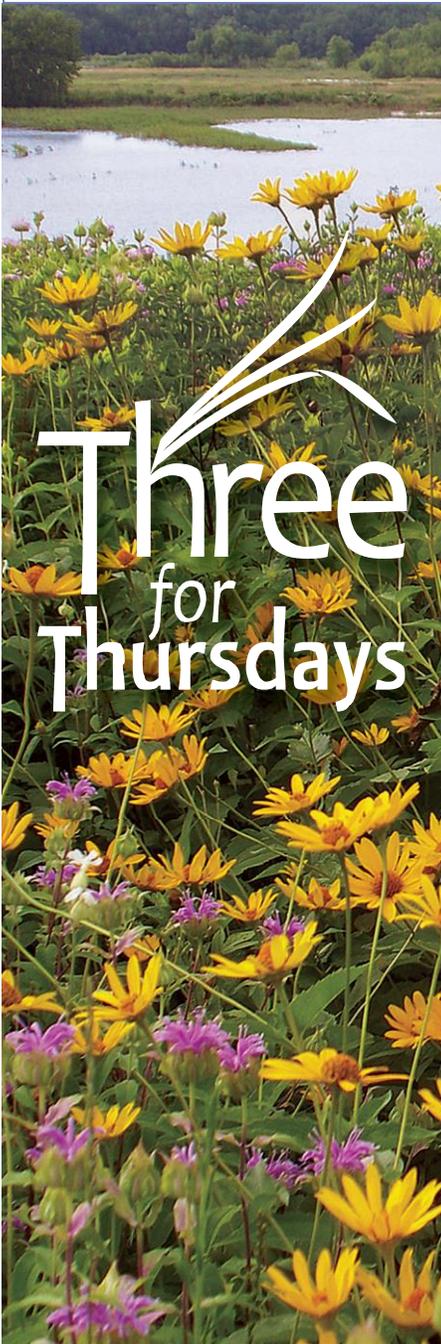


# NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land  
in Northern Illinois



## **Partnerships:**

### **NLI and the *Illinois Volunteer Stewardship Network***

In 1983, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois and the [Illinois Nature Preserves Commission](#) created the *Volunteer Stewardship Network* to connect volunteers to the outdoors and the natural world around the state. This March saw the launch of new webpages for the Network. This was a two year project that involved the creation of training videos and the collection of photos and information on all the stewardship groups who are restoring our native lands and waters. This web presence enhances public awareness of volunteer stewardship activities and opportunities and a space for volunteers to get more information on stewardship training and networking.

<http://www.nature.org/volunteerIL> . This link takes you to the main page, where you can scroll down, click to view the map and then go to the northwest region where Natural Land Institute is featured.

### **NLI and the *Prairie State Conservation Coalition (PSCC)***

PSCC is a statewide, not-for-profit association that works to strengthen the effectiveness of conservation land trusts in Illinois. They provide ongoing training, networking opportunities, capacity-building tools and a voice in Springfield on behalf of Illinois conservation land trusts. The Coalition works to strengthen the land conservation movement in Illinois by helping local conservation groups to preserve more open land.

Kerry, Jill and Ruth Little attended the February annual meeting where we shared ideas and explored new ways to expand our capacity to preserve more land in Illinois. You can read more about the Coalition at: [www.prairiestateconservation.org](http://www.prairiestateconservation.org)

### **NLI and *Vital Lands Illinois***

Vital Lands is a grant program created by the *Grand Victoria Foundation*, and was crafted through collaboration with land conservation leaders across Illinois. Its mission is to improve the way land conservation is practiced in Illinois and engage citizens and public officials to ensure the long-term preservation of Illinois' most vital landscapes. At this February's Summit, we worked on enhancing our networks, and refining the Vital Lands Strategic direction. In 2014 NLI was awarded a 2 year capacity building grant by the Foundation towards a full time position to manage our lands. We welcomed Ed Cope in December as our new Restoration Ecologist. You can find out more about this important grant program at : <http://www.grandvictoriafdn.org/how-we-work/how-can-we-overcome-fragmentation-and-unite-behind-a-big-picture-vision>

*Enjoy your Weekend!* Kerry March 19, 2015

