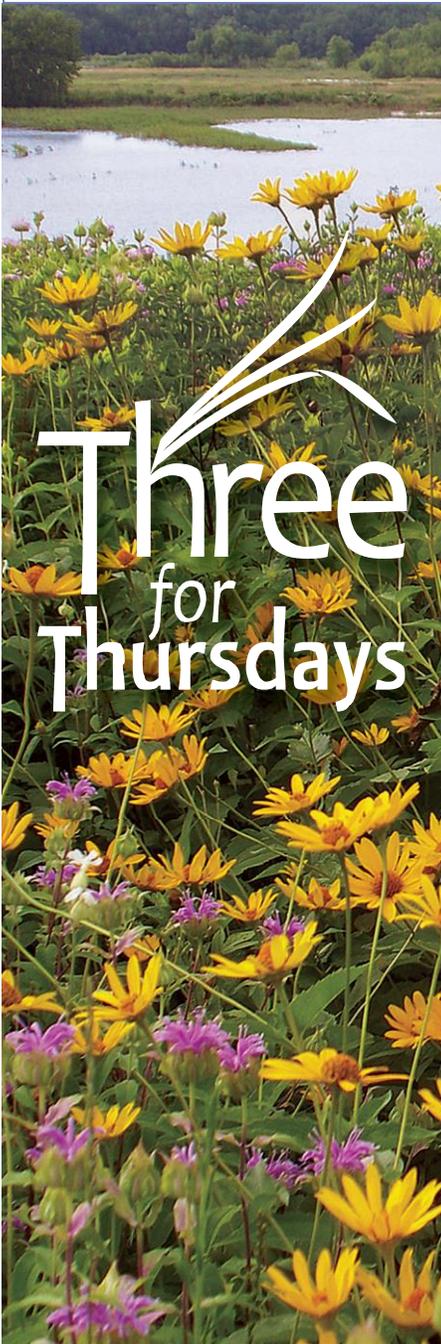


NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE

Conserving Land
in Northern Illinois



Three
for
Thursdays

[Midwin, the Illiana Tollway and the Secret State Study](#)

Last month I attended the Midwest Meeting of the Society for Ecological Restoration. One of the Plenary Speakers was Bill Glass from the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 64 km southwest of Chicago. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/midewin/home> Midewin is currently around 77 sq. km and will soon grow to 81 sq. km. The Forest Service developed a "Prairie Plan" with public input to determine the direction of the restoration work. It calls for restoring large portions of the land into a high diversity mosaic of prairie and wetlands with areas of woodland and savanna along the streams bisecting the landscape. Another major goal is to provide habitat for grassland birds. The large size of Midewin allows the reintroduction of processes and restoration activities that are not possible on small units. Its challenges include encroachment, noise and lighting from surrounding urban land uses, and in particular from the proposed Illiana tollway. <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20150325/BLOGS02/150329895/secret-state-study-dinged-illiana-finances>

[Bobcat Hunting Passes the House & the Senate](#)

Legislation opening up a hunting season in Illinois on bobcats has passed both the House Agriculture (14-2) and Senate Agriculture (7-2) committees. The bill will amend the wildlife code and remove the prohibition of taking bobcats in the State – previously banned since 1972 because the species became threatened. The current estimated population of bobcats is around 3,000 with most of the population located in the southern region of the state.

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/directory_show.cfm?species=bobcat

You can read about the Illinois Environmental Council's concerns about the legislation as written at:

http://action.ilenviro.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=16026

[The Incredible Premise of 'Trophic Cascades' in Ecosystem Diversity](#)

I'm currently reading a book titled '*Where the Wild Things Were- Life, Death and Ecological Wreckage in a Land of Vanishing Predators*' by William Stolzenburg. The premise of the book is how top predators are vital in conserving life's diversity, and incredibly, it wasn't even researched or seen as important until the 1970's, when even then many scientists didn't receive it well. You may also want to watch the video 'How Wolves Change Rivers' on the link below. It's only 4.5 minutes!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

Enjoy! Kerry

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320 S. Third Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104 • Phone: 815/964-6666
E-mail: info@naturalland.org • www.NaturalLand.org